United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/977
18 September 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General decides to deploy an additional 100 United Nations military observers to verify Western Sahara cease-fire.

- General Committee recommends to General Assembly new agenda item on ending United States embargo against Cuba. Proposes 143-item agenda for Assembly and Main Committees.

- More than one third of $400 million needed to fund consolidated inter-agency appeal for Horn of Africa is pledged at donors meeting.

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) approves $12 million for humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to Cambodia.

- Ballistic missile inspection team -- designated to be the first to use United Nations-provided helicopters -- returns from Iraq.

- New agenda for development of Africa in 1990s to set continent on path to sustainable growth is adopted by Ad Hoc Committee of Whole on Final Review and Appraisal of United Nations plan for African economic recovery and development.

- Berlin is recommended as venue of 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has decided to deploy an additional 100 United Nations military observers to Western Sahara to verify the cease-fire which began on 6 September.

On that date, the Secretary-General sent an advance team comprising 240 United Nations personnel to the Territory. The team is a forerunner of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara -- known as MINURSO. The Security Council has endorsed the Secretary-General's decision to enlarge the advance team.

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For information media—not an official record

According to the United Nations plan for Western Sahara, a transitional period would begin with the cease-fire and end with the proclamation of the results of the referendum. Morocco would undertake a substantial reduction of its troops on the Territory during the transitional period.

The United Nations would organize and conduct a referendum in which the people of Western Sahara will choose between independence or integration with Morocco.

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A new agenda item on the necessity of ending the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba was recommended this morning by the General Committee for consideration by the General Assembly's forty-sixth session.

In a statement to the committee, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada (Cuba) said that for more than 30 years, economic war has been waged against his country. The United States wished to avoid a discussion of its "criminal blockade", he stated, adding that although the United States believed such a discussion would be "inappropriate", no one could seriously question the relevance of the item, or the need for the General Assembly to consider it, or the necessity for an end to a policy that violated basic norms of law and ethics.

Responding, Robert B. Rosenstock (United States) said his country had been one of the earliest advocates of the liberal inscription policy. Some did not share such values and could not resist introducing items in a tendentious manner. His Government would raise no objection to inscription of the item and would discuss its substance at the appropriate time.

Two other new agenda items were also recommended for consideration directly in the plenary: Observer status for the Caribbean Community in the General Assembly; and strengthening of the coordination of United Nations emergency humanitarian assistance. A third new item, exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict, was recommended for consideration in the Sixth Committee (Legal).

The General Committee recommended that the Assembly include 143 items in the agenda of its current session, which began yesterday, and that it defer, until its next regular session, the items on the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India; and the question of East Timor.

The provisional agenda, as well as the Committee's recommendations for the allocation of items among the Assembly and its Main Committees, will go before the Assembly on Friday morning, 20 September.

The Committee recommended a special plenary observance, on 16 December, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols.

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It recommended that the Assembly recess on 17 December and close the forty-sixth session on 14 September 1992.

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More that one third of the $400 million needed to fund the consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Horn of Africa was pledged at yesterday's pledging conference on emergency assistance for that region.

In a closing statement at the final meeting, James O.C. Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, serving as the President of the pledging conference, stressed the emergency nature of the appeal, which covers Ethiopia, the Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya. He urged governments that had not made specific pledges to do so as soon as possible.

* * *

A $12 million aid program to provide humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance and to strengthen the technical skills of Cambodians has been approved by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The aid agreement was signed on Tuesday, 17 September, by UNDP Administrator, William H. Draper III, and the President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

According to a press communiqué, this is the first time in 15 years that a United Nations organization has provided such aid to Cambodia. Since the mid-1970s, United Nations aid to the country has been limited to humanitarian assistance, following the civil and political crises that occurred there.

Making the announcement, Mr. Draper said the commitment was made in response to the economic and political changes now under way in Cambodia. The prospects of a comprehensive political settlement under the aegis of the United Nations were now very promising and in preparation for this, UNDP had already fielded several fact-finding missions there, at the request of the Secretary-General.

* * *

A United Nations Special Commission inspection team returned recently from the fourth of a continuing series of inspections of Iraq's ballistic missile capabilities. The team was designated to be the first to use United Nations-provided helicopters to cover the significant distances involved. According to the team, Iraq denied the entry and use of the United Nations helicopters and the team was therefore withdrawn from the country.

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The 17-member team, led by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas S. Brock of the United States, was assigned the task of inspecting and monitoring the destruction of the fixed SCUD missile launchers declared by Iraq in the "Western Zone" during the period of 6 to 13 September.

Results of two inspections in the vicinity of Baghdad were significant, the team reports. Iraq had taken four of eight previously eliminated SCUD missile transport vehicles, temporarily welded them together, and moved them to a facility south of Baghdad containing missiles with a range of less than 150 kilometres. At that site an additional triple missile support not previously declared was noted and destroyed.

* * *

A new United Nations agenda to set the African continent on a path to sustainable growth and development has been adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole on Final Review and Appraisal of the United Nations plan on African Economic Recovery and Development.

The result of 11 days of negotiations -- the Committee met from 3 to 14 September -- the plan calls on Africa's development partners to take bold steps to solve Africa's external debt problem, which totals more than $270 billion. The plan also calls for the provision of additional resource flows and correction of imperfections in commodity market mechanisms.

African commitments include persistence with necessary economic reforms, improvement of human rights and the creation of the necessary environment for direct foreign and domestic investment.

The new plan for the development of Africa in the 1990s is to be considered by the General Assembly for approval this session.

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Berlin has been recommended as the venue of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. The recommendation to convene the high-level gathering in Berlin for a period of two weeks was made during the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference which ended on Friday, 13 September in Geneva.

The Conference will take place 25 years after the International Conference on Human Rights, held in Tehran in 1968.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/978
19 September 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council confirms $1.6 billion ceiling for Iraqi oil sales; authorizes release of funds from escrow account for humanitarian needs.

- Secretary-General receives "encouraging reactions" to ideas he put forward during meetings with President of El Salvador and General Command of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

- Secretary-General appoints Margaret Anstee to coordinate United Nations efforts to counter impact of burning oilfields in Kuwait.

- New round of talks between Guatemalan factions opens in Mexico City.

- Anti-Apartheid Committee welcomes signing of South African peace accord on violence and urges full compliance.

- International Labour Organisation and Danish agency sign $26 million technical cooperation agreement.

* * *

The Security Council, confirming its ceiling of $1.6 billion in limited Iraqi oil sales, this morning authorized the immediate release by the Secretary-General of one-third of that amount from the escrow account established for Iraq's essential civilian needs.

The Council urged that any provision to Iraq of foodstuffs, medicines, materials and supplies to meet those needs should be undertaken through arrangements which assured their equitable distribution.

By adopting resolution 712 (1991) by a vote of 13 in favour to 1 against (Cuba), with 1 abstention (Yemen), the Council approved recommendations contained in a report of the Secretary-General, which outlined a basic structure and measures for the sale of Iraqi oil for humanitarian requirements. The Council also decided that the oil should be immune from legal proceedings and that all States should take steps to ensure that protection.

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Prior to Council action on the resolution, the representative of Iraq, Abdul Amir A. Al-Anbari, said that it contained the same shortcomings and contradictions which existed in resolution 706. The text, while expressing concern for the humanitarian needs of Iraq, perpetrated the economic siege against Iraq and reinforced the embargo situation. He asserted that some States practised political hypocrisy in that they defended human rights while at the same time they played with the lives of the Iraqi people.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar had received encouraging reactions to the ideas he advanced to the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) during their meetings on Thursday, 17 September. The spokesman said the ideas were contained in a working paper and concerned guarantees for the reintegration into society of the FMLN.

The Secretary-General began his meetings with the two parties at Headquarters on Monday. He invited them to New York for talks in order to break the deadlock in the negotiations between the two sides.

* * *

A new round of talks opened this morning in Mexico City between representatives of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG).

A United Nations official told correspondents that the talks would centre on the question of human rights -- the second part of the first item of the general agenda agreed to in Mexico City on 26 April. The talks, scheduled to last three days, were being held in the presence of the Conciliator, Monsignor Rodolfc Quezada Toruño, and of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Francesco Vendrell, acting as Observer.

* * *

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Margaret Anstee, has been appointed by the Secretary-General as his Personal Representative to coordinate United Nations efforts to counter the impact of the burning oil wells in Kuwait and in the region.

The appointment is in response to a request from the Government of Kuwait, which is concerned about the serious impact on air, water, soil, the coastal and marine environment, fauna and vegetal cover in Kuwait and in the region, and its corollary effects on health and the quality of life.

Ms. Anstee is expected to travel to Kuwait on 7 October on a preliminary visit to prepare the ground for a comprehensive assessment mission.

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She will work closely with United Nations agencies involved in offsetting the effects of the disaster, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

* * *

The Special Committee against Apartheid has welcomed the National Peace Accord recently concluded in South Africa, saying it considered it a significant step in the search for a negotiated end to apartheid.

In a press communiqué issued at Headquarters today, the Committee commended the signatories for their determination to end political violence in South Africa. By their agreement last week, it said, the signatories had opened the prospects for a climate that fostered a culture of tolerance conducive to a peaceful process.

* * *

An agreement signed today in Geneva with the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) will give the International Labour Office (ILO) access to $26 million in technical cooperation funds, to be spent over four years.

The programme of ILO field activities in developing countries to be funded by Danish sources includes 38 projects, ranging from workers' education and employers' activities to small-enterprise development, and from promotion of rural incomes to improvement of factory inspectorates.

Denmark was the second biggest contributor to country-funded ILO technical cooperation programmes in 1990.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/979
20 September 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council holds consultations to discuss procedures for election of new Secretary-General; would also discuss requests by Member States for urgent meeting to address "deteriorating situation in Yugoslavia".

- Pledging Conference is held at Headquarters to help Soviet republics mitigate consequences of Chernobyl nuclear accident.

- General Assembly approves 144-item agenda for forty-sixth session, including new item on necessity to end United States embargo against Cuba.

* * *

The Security Council met in consultations this afternoon to discuss the procedures for the election of the successor to Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, whose current five-year term expires at the end of this year.

After the meeting, the President of the Council, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), issued the following statement: "The members of the Council have already started their consultations on the procedure for the election of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is their intention to start the process of the election itself at the beginning of October, with a view to finalizing it as quickly as possible."

Speaking to correspondents before the meeting, the President said that he would begin consulting Council members on what decision to take about possible action of the Council on the situation in Yugoslavia.

Also speaking to the press, David Hannay, United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said that bearing in mind that the European Economic Community (EEC) had long been working for a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav problem, the objective of the Council consultations would be not to have two competing ways of dealing with the problem, but to have one single way. He stressed that the Council's action must be "preventative" in order to ensure that negotiations to bring about a cease-fire would begin as soon as possible .

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For information media—not an official record

The consultations followed requests by Canada and other States for an urgent meeting of the Council. In its letter requesting the meeting, Canada referred to what it called the "deteriorating situation in Yugoslavia, the continuation of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security". The letter, which was transmitted by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, L. Yves Fortier, was addressed to the Secretary-General and dated 19 September.

The Canadian Government's request for a Council meeting has been followed by similar requests by a number of countries including Austria, Australia and Hungary.

* * *

A pledging conference to mobilize support and assistance to Byelorussia, Ukraine and Russia -- the Soviet republics worst affected by the Chernobyl accident, took place today at Headquarters.

Pledges were being sought by United Nations humanitarian agencies to help mitigate the consequences of the nuclear accident that occurred on 26 April 1986 in the Ukranian town of Chernobyl.

At at press conference yesterday, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Margaret Anstee, who is also Coordinator for United Nations activities relating to the Chernobyl accident, said the United Nations had been involved in addressing the consequences of the disaster from the outset.

She said the accident had been characterized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the largest short-term release of a single source of radioactive material ever. According to the Agency, at least 1 million people were living in contaminated regions.

The pledging conference is seeking funds for 131 relief projects, which would require $646 million in addition to the funds which have been made available locally. The projects address health, resettlement, economic and social rehabilitation, food, agriculture, environmental clean up and the lessons to be learned from the Chernobyl experience.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning approved a 144-item agenda for its forty-sixth session. It included a new item on the necessity of ending the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

That and two other new agenda items approved by the Assembly -- observer status for the Caribbean Community in the General Assembly, and strengthening of the coordination of United Nations emergency humanitarian assistance -- will be considered directly in plenary. A fourth new item, exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict, was allocated for consideration in the Sixth Committee (Legal).

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As in previous years, the allocation of item 45, on the question of Cyprus, was deferred until an appropriate time during the session.

The Assembly's general debate is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, 23 September, and end on Thursday, 10 October. The President of Brazil will deliver the first address, followed by the President of El Salvador, the representative of Iceland, the Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, the Prime Minister of New Zealand and the President of the United States.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/980
23 September 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- United States President asks to repeal "zionism is racism" resolution, as general debate of forty-sixth session begins; Presidents of Brazil and El Salvador address Assembly; statements also made this morning by Prime Minister of New Zealand; and Foreign Ministers of Iceland and Burkina Faso.

- President of Security Council says Iraq has not met requirements on "full, final and complete disclosure" of weapons sites set out by Council.

- Secretary-General remains hopeful following consultations with President of El Salvador and General Command of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

- Inspection team of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports new findings on Iraqi nuclear programme.

- IAEA Conference adopts resolutions on application of Agency safeguards in Middle East and South Africa.

* * *

The forty-sixth session of the General Assembly began today its main debate. During the next three weeks, representatives of 166 countries -- many Heads of State and Foreign Ministers -- will address the Assembly and give their countries' viewpoints on the issues before the Assembly.

The opening statement of the Assembly's debate by tradition was made by Brazil. In his statement, the President of Brazil, Fernando Collor de Melo, addressed the need for the United Nations to face ethical challenges including environment and development, human rights, world population questions and the situation of women and children, alongside political and economical challenges.

Referring to next year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, President Collor said that political tasks of peace-building did not take place in a vacuum; it depended on economic development, which in turn was dependent on environmentally

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For information media—not an official record

sustainable economic models. He said Brazil intended to explore opportunities for dialogue to the fullest and hoped to find its partners to be open and determined. "The Conference should not set the stage for grievances and recrimination; it should, on the contrary, provide the framework for mature and feasible proposals".

The President of El Salvador, Alfredo Felix Cristiani-Burkard, stated that his Government was currently engaged at United Nation systemuarters in a process of negotiation. It was clear, he said, that "time has come for war to come to an end in El Salvador". His Government was working tirelessly towards that goal. The main roadblocks had been resolved and only detail remained. Total agreement for an end to the conflict might soon be a reality.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, said his Government was distressed that attempts had been made to introduce proposals on the management of whales into the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The problem was compounded when States considered introducing trade restrictions in response to differences in environmental policies. As a country overwhelmingly dependent on one natural resource and export commodity, Iceland could well understand the situation faced by many developing countries. The problems caused by protectionism were not confined, he said, to relations between industrialized countries and developing countries.

In his address, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkino Faso, Issa Dominique Konate, said that in Africa, 500 million people had been condemned to stagnation and impoverishment. The external debt of the continent was an extremely heavy burden and the industrial countries had not come forth with contributions as promised. He supported an international conference on the financing of development, and welcomed Japan's decision to organize in 1993 a conference on development in Africa with the participation of African Heads of States.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, James Bolger, said his country, as one of the first nations to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), firmly believed that attempts to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons must be an agenda item of the highest priority for the Organization. New Zealand welcomed the recent decisions of France and China to join the NPT, and urged all parties to agree to an indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995.

In his address, the President of the United States, George Bush, called for the repeal of the 1975 Assembly resolution, which identifies zionism as "a form of racism and racial discrimination". He told the Assembly that to equate zionism with racism was to "twist history" and to reject Israel itself. "This body cannot claim to stand for peace and, at the same time, challenge Israel's right to exist", he declared.

Speaking of the situation in the Gulf region, the President of the United States stated that the United Nations sanctions should be maintained as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power in Iraq, and that the Iraqi Government

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should proceed to the destruction of all its weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. And we cannot compromise, he said.

* * *

The Security Council met in consultations this morning to continue its discussion of Iraq's refusal to let United Nations inspection teams overfly Iraqi weapon sites with its own helicopters. Council members also consulted on the situation in Yugoslavia and Cambodia.

By its resolution 707 (1991) of 15 August, the Council had demanded that Iraq allow full, final and complete disclosure of all military sites. However, United Nations inspection teams have continuously reported difficulty entering into Iraqi weapons sites and that they were denied use of helicopters. The Council President, Jean-Bernard Merimée of France, requested that Iraq submit a formal written commitment that it would implement "unreservedly" the provisions of the resolution.

In a statement following Council consultations today, the Council President said he had received an answer yesterday from the Iraqi Government, which did "not meet the requirements set out by the Council". As far as the substance was concerned, Mr. Merimée said, "the Iraqi Government sticks to the conditions linked to its acceptance of the Security Council resolutions". He said that in their answer they never referred to resolution 707 but "just mentioned resolution 687 (1990)". Bilateral consultations would begin immediately to determine what further steps the Council might take, the President said.

* * *

In a related development, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, Chairman of the Special Commission on the Disarmament of Iraq, informed the Council today that a group of United Nations inspectors had discovered a substantial amount of documentation in a building in Baghdad which pointed to the presence of a nuclear weapons development programme. According to Mr. Ekeus, the inspectors remained in the building and had not been allowed to leave with the documents. He described today's findings as significant since the documentation would provide more details and a better understanding of the breadth of the Iraqi nuclear programme.

Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée was requested by Council members to contact the Iraqi Foreign Minister immediately and to demand that the inspectors be allowed to leave the site with the documents.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar's consultations with the President of El Salvador and the General Command of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) had continued throughout the weekend.

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The spokesman said that while progress was being made and the gap appeared to be closing on the question of guarantees for the reintegration of the FMLN into society, "roadblocks still remain". Continued flexibility would be required to overcome them, he said.

The Secretary-General remained hopeful that "important steps would be taken to break the deadlock in the negotiations".

* * *

Participants in the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have called for the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East. They also strongly condemned Iraq's non-compliance with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations, including its safeguards agreements with the Agency.

These were among a number of decisions taken by participants from more than 90 countries at the five-day Conference, which ended on Friday. Other resolutions included a call once again on Israel to submit its nuclear installations to IAEA safeguards. Also, the IAEA Director-General, Hans Blix, was asked to verify the completeness of the required inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and material, as submitted by that Government in its safeguards agreement with the Agency.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/981
24 September 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General is informed by his assistant, Giandomenico Picco, that British hostage, Jack Mann, is released in Beirut.

- General Assembly is addressed this morning by Presidents of Lebanon and Republic of Korea; and the Foreign Ministers of Netherlands, Soviet Union and France. Among this afternoon's speakers are King of Swaziland, President of the Marshall Islands, Foreign Ministers of Finland, Portugal and Japan.

- United Nations inspection team is detained in Baghdad when refusing to surrender copies of important documents on Iraqi nuclear programmes.

- United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador reports that persistance of armed conflict and its escalation in certain parts of country is affecting fundamental rights of Salvadorian people.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has been informed by his assistant, Giandomenico Picco, of the release today in Beirut of British hostage Jack Mann.

Spokesman Francois Giuliani announced today that the Secretary-General was encouraged by this further step in a process which he hoped would lead to a "full, speedy and satisfactory solution of the problem of all detainees and missing persons". The spokesman said Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar would continue his efforts and was confident that he could count on the continued cooperation of the groups in Lebanon and of the Governments which have been assisting him so far.

The spokesman told correspondents earlier today that the Lebanese Revolutionary Justice Organization had informed United Nations officials of their decision to release the British national. A communiqué issued by the organization said that in order to facilitate the release of Mr. Mann, they had asked the Secretary-General's delegate, Giandomenico Picco, to be in the hotel "on time".

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For information media—not an official record

Mr. Giuliani read excerpts from the communiqué saying that the United Nations, represented by the Secretary-General and many other mediators, "had done a hard job to save any failure, and they tried to reach solutions which might be a common point to all the factions". The communiqué declared that the Secretary-General acted in a useful way which gave a good result towards releasing the British pilot, "as the first step in the following future phase, aiming at closing the file of the hostages and the prisoners".

* * *

The General Assembly continued its general debate this morning hearing statements of two Heads of State and three Foreign Ministers.

Opening today's debate, the President of Lebanon, Elias Hraoui, said his country owed the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) a great debt for the many sacrifices it had made in the performance of its mission. He added that the Lebanese army had been deployed side by side with the United Nations peace-keepers with a view to extending the authority of the State. Noting that the transformation in Lebanon was due to the character of the Lebanese people, Mr. Hraoui said much remained to be done to eliminate the effect of crisis, such as the hostage crisis. He stated that Lebanon was determined to cooperate with all to put an end to the crisis.

The President of the Republic of Korea, Roh Tae Woo, recalled that his country had first formally applied for membership 43 years ago. The Korean people, he said, lived under two separate systems, but they had not forgotten that they were one nation. His country would seek national unification peacefully, without the use of military, and on the basis of self-determination, he said.

In his address before the Assembly, Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Community, called on reinforcement from the Security Council to settle the conflict in Yugoslavia. He said the 12 members of the European Community felt that a mandatory arms embargo by the Security Council under Chapter 7 was needed to bring peace to the region.

The Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, BORIS D. PANKIN, said that his country had just gone through a "purifying storm", including the defeat of a "criminal coup", and was on the threshold of a new era in its centuries-old history. He attributed the coup's failure to the recent democratic achievements of Soviet perestroika and the irreversible pro-democracy movement as well as the new relationship between his country and the rest of the world. He expressed deep gratitude to all those who had associated themselves with Soviet resistance to the coup.

The disarmament breakthroughs earlier in the year concerning conventional arms in Europe and strategic nuclear arms had proven that relations between the Soviet Union and the United States were no longer those of adversaries. Another decisive step to end the cold war had been made in an area that was most resistant to new trends -- the economy -- with the meeting of the Soviet

President and the Group of Seven leaders in London, and subsequent contacts. Those developments had set the stage for overcoming the economic division of the world and restoring its integrity, economic interdependence and its financial fabric.

Before the August events, he said, the progress of perestroika inside the country had lagged far behind its international impact. Now, that gap had been closed and his country would never be the same. Where an "ossified empire" had once stood, a new union of free and truly sovereign nations bound together by common aspirations was being born. Democracy, human rights, openness towards each other and to the entire civilized world would be its main frame.

He went on to draw attention to the danger that the ideological division of the world might be replaced by attempts to divide and antagonize countries, peoples and nations on national, ethnic or religious grounds, he said. The result might be the "nineteenth century revisited". The problem was how to make the growing national self-awareness serve the cause of progress, freedom and the prosperity of people.

Also addressing the current conflict in Yugoslavia, the Foreign Minister of France, Roland Dumas, in his address before the General Assembly, said Yugoslavia was heading deeper into an impasse. He said France believed it was incumbent on the United Nations to bring the parties to reason by demanding compliance with the cease-fire, by showing the way to dialogue and to negotiation that had been mapped out with their consent by the European Economic Community (EEC). He said his country, currently holding the Presidency of the Security Council would leave no stone unturned to achieve this end, and would take action at the Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Opening this afternoon's debate, the Foreign Minister of Finland, Paavo Väyrynen, noted that his country -- a consistent supporter of the United Nations peace-keeping activities -- firmly supported the extension of U.N. peace-keeping into new fields, including that of prevention of conflicts.

On the environmental issue, Mr. Väyrynen said that the strongest economic powers, which profit most from world-wide integration, should bear the main responsibility for helping those countries which do not have sufficient possibilities to succeed in this competition.

He announced that the Nordic countries had undertaken a study called "the Nordic UN project", reflecting the desire of those governments to make the system more transparent, responsive and accountable.

Speaking after the Finnish representative, Head of State of Swaziland, King Mswati III, said much still needed to be done to redress the many imbalances evident around the world. He said that as an African Head of State, he felt it was his responsibility to put forward his continent's case, as the economic situation there continues to worsen and the economic divide between North and South continued to widen alarmingly. He pointed to the poor growth rates, huge external debt and low output as part of the demoralizing

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story of Africa, and said the consequences of war, natural disaster and social upheaval all combined to project a gloomy picture.

The King spoke in his capacity as chairman of the 18-nation Preferential Trade Area (PTA), representing some 220 million people.

The President of the Marshall Islands, Amata Kabua, expressed gratitude for the warm reception he had received in the international community as one of the seven new members of the United Nations. He praised the former colonial administrator, the United States, saying his Republic could never have come as far as they had without United States aid and encouragement.

The issue of global warming was a most formidable one, he said, and the consequences could be catastrophic for the low-lying Marshall Islands. He expressed the hope that through the efforts of the United Nations there would be a consensus on the extent of the problem as well as a sound course of action to remedy the effects of global warming.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Joao de Deus Pinheiro, told the Assembly that the efforts of an increasing number of countries towards the democratization of their own regimes, progress in the field of human rights and the creation of market economies deserved international recognition. He pointed out that in Africa, a continent to which Portugal was linked historically and culturally, there has been an evolution to which the international community should not remain indifferent -- naming Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe as examples of political renewal, and Angola, as a place where peace was now a valuable "fait-accompli".

The Foreign Minister of Japan, Taro Nakayama, declared to the Assembly that the Japanese people were resolutely determined never again to become a military power. He proposed the establishment of a conflict-prevention system based on strengthening the Secretariat's ability to monitor possible conflicts, dispatching on-site fact-finding missions, issuing early warnings as the situation requires, and conducting good offices and mediation efforts under the authority of the Secretary-General.

With the threat of nuclear war having receded and ideological conflict a thing of the past, he said the promotion of development was now the international community's "most important responsibility".

Addressing the General Assembly yesterday afternoon, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Bailey Olter -- the leader of one of the seven new UN member States -- expressed his country's concern with nuclear weapon testing in the South Pacific region. He welcomed the decision by France to become a party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and to sign and ratify the Convention of the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme. He expressed the hope that France will cease its testing of nuclear weapons in the area.

The Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland, focused, in her address yesterday, on the necessity to create economic growth in the

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developing countries. She drew attention to the fact that her country maintained its development assistance in excess of 1 per cent of GDP, the highest in the world. Yet, she said, aid alone can never solve the poverty problem. A sound national economy and implementation of policies of social reform were also necessary, she said.

Speaking on the environmental problems, Mrs. Brundtland indicated that Norway had proposed a cost-effective implementation of targets, set to limit global emissions of green house gases. In her opinion, targets could be reached by States acting individually or in cooperation with other countries.

In his address before the Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Gareth Evans, stressed that his country welcomed in particular the results of recent meetings on Cambodia. It now seemed that no obstacles remained for a signature of a comprehensive settlement in Paris next month.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, Guido di Tella, said his country was building a sound political stability and could now make long-term plans. He said he was encouraged by the process of integration between Argentina and Brazil. Both States, together with Paraguay, had signed last March in Asuncion a treaty for the establishment of the common market of the South (MERCOSUR) which should be constituted by 31 December 1994. The treaty would become for the Latin American region what the Rome Treaty was for the European Community.

The Foreign Minister of Iran, Ali-Akbar Velayati, addressed recent developments in the Gulf area, saying there was a need for the States of the area to cooperate on a bilateral and regional level, taking into account the mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. He stressed the importance of universal respect for human rights, and said the importance of the human person did not allow for monopoly by a particular system of thought or manipulation for ulterior objectives.

Regarding the question of Afghanistan, he said that issue directly affected the national security of Iran and Pakistan, two countries which had shouldered the heaviest burden by hosting more than 5 million Afghan refugees. Recent joint efforts by Iran, Pakistan and the Afghan Mujahedeen in seeking a just solution to the Afghan problem, was a major step in the right direction.

In his address, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, touching on the economic disparities in the world, said the difference between North and South was increasingly more evident. If the deepening of economic asymmetry between nations was not corrected, it would create instability for all countries.

The Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, Stanley Kalpage, said the alleviation of poverty was a high priority on his country's agenda of development. It was striving for self-sustaining development aimed at improving living conditions while preserving cultural values derived from its people's traditional religions and philosophies.

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Documents seized by Iraqi officials from UN inspectors yesterday, have been returned to the inspectors with certain important documents missing that were previously identified by the inspection team.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents at Headquarters that the inspection had continued in Baghdad this morning at a different location, designated by the Special Commission, where administrative records of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission were stored. The team had entered the site unhindered and observed "that a substantial amount of documents had been removed previously." However, they had found materials "of singular importance" to enable the Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to reconstruct the Iraqi nuclear programme, in particular records regarding foreign and domestic procurement.

Since the material was not of a character to be removed or destroyed under resolution 687 (1991) -- unlike the plans, designs and blueprints discovered yesterday -- the team agreed to leave it in Iraqi custody, after having recorded and copied it. However, the inspectors were prevented from copying the documents and were detained when they refused to surrender all photographs, films and video tapes and all copies of Iraqi documents.

The Chairman of the Special Commission, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, has notified the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council of the situation.

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The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), established on 26 July by the Security Council to verify the observance of human rights in that country, has come out with its first report.

The Director of ONUSAL's Human Rights Division, Philippe Texier, says in the report that the persistence of the armed conflict in El Salvador and its recent escalation are creating a considerable amount of tension which is affecting the fundamental rights of the people. He says the present report was prepared during the Mission's preparatory phase and does not therefore attempt to analyse the human rights situation in El Salvador in depth, but rather to establish a basis for future reports.

According to the report, the absence of a cease-fire was complicating the Mission's verification task in a variety of ways. One complication, clearly, was a juridical one related to the verification, in the midst of an armed conflict, of an agreement conceived for a peace-time situation. In addition, the report said, the need to protect members of the Mission in a situation of armed conflict complicated the verification of the agreement.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/982
25 September 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council calls on all States to implement "general and complete embargo" on weapons deliveries to Yugoslavia; urges all parties to abide strictly by cease-fire agreement.

- Secretary-General announces signing of agreement between Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional.

- Secretary-General says he will appeal to Iraqi Foreign Minister for release of members of United Nations inspection team detained in Iraq.

- General Assembly is addressed by President of Venezuela and Foreign Ministers of Germany, China, United Kingdom and Czechoslovakia. President of Haiti, Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism of Nepal, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada also address the Assembly.

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees begins its biggest land logistics operation to help some 65,000 Iraqi returnee families get through the winter.

- Financial situation of United Nations is "precarious" says Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management speaking at meeting of Fifth Committee.

- Legal Committee begins substantive work of forty-sixth session hearing statements on principles concerning new economic order.

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The Security Council, meeting at a ministerial level this afternoon, has called on all States to implement immediately a "general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Yugoslavia".

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For information media--not an official record

By the unanimously adopted resolution, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, France, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, the Council appealed urgently to and encouraged all parties to settle their disputes peacefully and through negotiation at the conference on Yugoslavia suggested by European States.

It expressed deep concern by the fighting in Yugoslavia which it said was causing heavy loss of human life and material damage, and by the consequences for the countries of the region, particularly those bordering Yugoslavia.

The Council commended the efforts undertaken by the European Community and its member States, with the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), to restore peace and dialogue in Yugoslavia.

By the resolution, the Council invited the Secretary-General to offer his assistance without delay, in consultation with Yugoslavia, and to report as soon as possible to the Council.

In a statement to the Council, the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, welcomed the peace action of the European Community under the auspices of the CSCE. He said this was the second time Yugoslavia was on the Council's agenda. Four decades ago, Yugoslavian sovereign rights to life in peace and to unimpeded development as well as the right to determine its own destiny was in great jeopardy. Now four decades later, Yugoslavia was in conflict with itself, he said.

The Yugoslavian crisis jeopardized not only the present and future of all its peoples, but also peace and stability in Europe. Yugoslavia could no longer be "simply repaired", it should now be "redefined", he said. It was crucial to consolidate the still fragile cease-fire agreed upon a couple of days ago.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar this evening at Headquarters, announced the signing of an agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) on the conditions and guarantees for the reintegration into society of the FMLN.

In a statement to the press, the Secretary-General said the goal of the week-long talks had been met and the cease-fire would resume shortly. It was his firm expectation that this agreement would break the deadlock in negotiations. Efforts leading towards agreements on all pending substantive matters and "a brief dynamic cease-fire" would resume shortly, he said.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's announcement came following a series of meetings held in New York between President Alfredo Christiani, delegations of the Government of El Salvador and five commanders of the FMLN, and the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto.

Talks will resume on 10 October for 10 days.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today that he will make an appeal for the release of the members of the United Nations nuclear inspection team detained yesterday by Iraq, when he meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein later today.

Commenting on the situation as he entered United Nations Headquarters this morning, the Secretary-General said there was no indication that the inspectors are in any danger.

Meanwhile, following Security Council consultations last night, Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee of France issued a statement demanding that the inspection team be immediately allowed to leave the site and to take the documents "they deem appropriate" with them.

The statement said the Council gives its full support to the Special Commission and the inspection team currently in Iraq, and reiterated that the Commission is "the sole judge of the definition of the documents, sites or materials subject to inspection".

The statement expressed full condemnation of the Iraqi authorities for the way in which they have "repeatedly prevented the inspectors from carrying out their duty," and called the detainment of the inspectors "unacceptable".

* * *

Opening the General Assembly's debate this morning, the President of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez, called in his address for a move from East-West confrontation to a North-South cooperation that would lead to a single world.

He said it was time to ask both the United States and Cuba to cease their confrontation, which, he said, originated in the context of the cold war. He said that he hoped that Cuba would open itself to the universal concept of democracy and that the United States would be open to dialogue to bring an end to "sanctions that have lost their justification and validity".

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher spoke to the Assembly this morning for the first time as the Foreign Minister of a united Germany. He said he wanted the European Community to develop into a European union and ultimately into the "united states of Europe", with this year bringing final decision in favour of political union and economic and monetary union.

The German Foreign Minister said he wanted to bring the whole of Europe even closer together, including the peoples of the Soviet Union. He pledged support and assistance to Eastern Europe, saying "no one in the West will be permanently well off if those in the East are permanently bad off".

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He also spoke about Yugoslavia, calling on the Security Council to "adopt a clear, unequivocal position so that the fighting can be stopped". Germany, he said, expected a binding weapons embargo.

In his statement, Foreign Minister of China Qian Qichen welcomed the simultaneous admission by the current General Assembly session of the North and South of Korea as members of the United Nations, saying it was an important event conducive to the relaxation of tension in the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Qichen also welcomed the Cambodian delegation headed by Prince Sihanouk. He said he believed that a settlement of the Cambodian question would bring about peace and stability in south-east Asia and create a favourable environment for cooperation among all countries in the region.

On the question of the protection of human rights, the Chinese Foreign Minister said that for a long time, the human rights forum of the United Nations had been used by certain countries as a place for waging cold war. For example, he said, "human rights have been used as a means for pushing power politics and interfering in the affairs which are basically within the jurisdiction of other States". He said the Chinese Government had consistently supported and respected the principles of protecting human rights contained in the Charter and the relevant international instruments, and had actively participated in a wide range of human rights activities in the United Nations.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, Douglas Hurd, in his statement called the Assembly's attention to the need for all States to apply the principle of transparency in arms transfers.

He said his country had proposed a universal register of arms transfers under United Nations auspices, to alert the international community to an attempt by a country to build up holdings of conventional weapons beyond a reasonable level. He also said that Great Britain would be sponsoring a resolution at this General Assembly, which he hoped would result in the prompt establishment of such a register.

Mr. Hurd drew attention to what he called the "collapse of the principle of empire", saying nationalism was a legitimate expression of people's aspirations and could be dangerous. Referring to the situation unfolding in Yugoslavia, the British Foreign Minister said he hoped the Security Council would add its unique authority to the efforts of the European Community and the CSCE to help the people of Yugoslavia bring an end to the bloodshed and begin a new pattern for the future.

In his statement to the Assembly, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia, Jiri Dienstbier, spoke about the role of the United Nations now that the cold war had ended and many countries had transformed into democratic States. He noted that the United Nations must be better that the sum of its members. Particular national interests had often been advanced in conflict with common interest. There should be no difference between nations big and small, developed and less developed.

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Mr. Dienstbier went on to say that the General Assembly agenda year after year "stubbornly" featured a variety of prestigious items whose only point was to debate "obsolete" resolutions. There was a need for the Organization to adapt to new requirements and increasing demands put on its activity.

In his afternoon address to the General Assembly, the President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, noted that while more than $500 billion were spent annually on arms world-wide, people in his country went hungry because of lack of employment opportunities and lack of human justice. However, he said, the situation in his country had improved considerably since the appointment of a new Government at the beginning of February: the public expenditure had been cut down, the food production was on the rise and, for the first time in a long time, his country showed a surplus budget.

He also indicated that Haiti was making every effort to develop and strengthen its trade and economic relations with the countries from the Caribbean region, as well as with other developing and industrialized nations.

In his statement before the General Assembly this afternoon, Ram Hari Joshi, Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism of Nepal, said his Government placed great value on cooperative relations with the countries in its immediate neighbourhood. He informed the Assembly that Nepal had recently joined in a cooperative venture under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to lay the groundwork of an enduring relationship of sincerity and trust among all members.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Barbara McDougall, recalled in her statement that her country had been among the first ones to try and design a comprehensive and effective framework dealing with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Among the number of concrete steps suggested by Canada was the necessity for transparency of international arms sales, particularly by the establishment of a global transfer Register that is universal, non-discriminatory and effective. That Register, she said, should include national inventories as well.

Ms. McDougall also called for the strengthening of the Security Council's capacity to take preventive and anticipatory actions. An ability to assess impending flashpoints, engage the necessary political will at the earliest stage, and act effectively and decisively in timely ways would increase, in her opinion, the lead-time in reacting to events and would reduce the security risk by minimizing the element of surprise. This, she said, could be accomplished within the existing Charter as long as the Secretary-General can continue to play a strong leadership role.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began today its biggest land logistics operation, with the departure from Turkey of 2,500 trucks filled with building materials for some 65,000 Iraqi returnee families. The $15 million shelter programme is part of UNHCR's regional plan of action for Iraq and is intended to get people through the freezing winter months.

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According to a press communique issued by UNHCR, only one half of the 640,000 people, still displaced in the north-eastern areas of Iraq, is expected to voluntarily return to their homes. The Agency said it hopes many more will return to Iraq.

The UNHCR reported another winterization programme in Iran, where the first of some 3,300 winterized shelters, capable of housing up to 40,000 people, will be completed by early November. The Agency said that from the exodus of some 1.4 million Iraqis into Iran earlier this year, only 70,000 refugees still remained in camps.

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The cash flow of the United Nations was "precarious", said Richard Foran, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, in a statement yesterday, as the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) began its substantial work for the forty-sixth session.

Mr. Foran attributed the critical situation to the fact that the Organization has been asked to take on more tasks in 1991 than ever before. He urged delegates of countries that had not yet paid to ask their Governments to amend that matter.

In addition to taking up the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993, and to elaborating a new scale of assessments for apportioning the expenses of the Organization among Member States, the Committee this year will also consider personnel questions, the financing of peace-keeping operations and missions and the administrative and financial efficiency of the United Nations.

The Committee elected Kees Spaans (Netherlands) and Norma Goicochea (Cuba) as Vice-Chairmen, and Mahmoud Barimani (Iran) as Rapporteur.

The Chairman of the Committee, Ali Sunni Muntasser (Libya), was elected on 17 September.

* * *

The Sixth Committee (Legal) began its substantive work this morning hearing statements on the progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order.

The Chairman, Pedro Comissario Afonso (Mozambique), noting a dwindling interest in the topic, urged that the Committee either take action on the item or postpone its consideration.

Among those making a statement at the meeting, the representative of Tanzania, Jerry E. J. Mburi, said that in the present international climate, economic divisions threatened to supplant ideological ones. The gap between developed and developing countries continued to widen and a lack of political will on the part of major Western Powers lay behind that phenomenon, he said.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/983
26 September 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

^ Security Council holds consultations to discuss message to Iraq saying that inspection team currently detained in Baghdad must leave with copies of "all documents".

^ Advance team to visit East Timor on Saturday 28 September, in preparation for visit of Portuguese Parliamentary delegation.

^ General Assembly hears addresses by Head of State of Liechtenstein, President of Supreme National Council for Cambodia, Amir of Kuwait; and statements by Foreign Ministers of Ghana, Turkey and Malta. President of Suriname and Ministers of India, Papua New Guinea, Costa Rica and Belarus also address the Assembly.

^ United Nations needs to experience "new order" if it is to have meaningful role in "new world order", says report by United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

* * *

The Security Council held consultations this afternoon to discuss its reply to a letter it received from Iraq last night on the situation of the inspectors who have been detained at a Iraqi weapons site near Baghdad since Tuesday.

United States Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering told correspondents, following consultations, that the reply would indicate that the Council insisted that the team should leave with all its documents and film intact. The Council did not object to the taking of an inventory, as requested by the Iraqi authorities, Mr. Pickering said. The letter would also notify the Iraqi authorities of the next inspection, which might involve the use of helicopters, including the modalities for the use of those helicopters.

Also speaking to the press, Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée of France said it was the understanding of the Council that the inspection team would be allowed to leave once the inventory of all the documents was completed.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that Indonesia had confirmed its readiness to receive a small advance team to East Timor to prepare the logistical and technical aspects of the visit of the Portuguese Parliamentary delegation.

She said the agreement was reached during three rounds of substantive talks that had followed the agreement reached between Indonesia and Portugal on the terms of reference of the visit to East Timor by the Portuguese delegation.

Following further talks it had now been agreed, the spokeswoman said, that the advance team would begin its mission on 28 September and end it on 7 October.

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The General Assembly met this morning to hear addresses by the Prince of Liechtenstein, the President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and the Amir of Kuwait. The Assembly also heard the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Justice of Malta.

Opening today's debate, Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein welcomed the seven new members of the United Nations. "As the representative of the smallest Member State" of the Organization, he thanked the international community for accepting Liechtenstein last year as a Member of the United Nations.

He said United Nations membership gave protection to those which were too weak to defend their independence. He also proposed a preliminary study on guidelines or rules of conduct to govern the process of self-determination, saying such a study could eventually become an international convention.

In his address, the President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, Prince Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, said the progress achieved in recent negotiations on a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian conflict, most recently in New York, augured well for the future. The talks included the major issues relating to a cease-fire, cessation of external arms supplies, demobilization of armed forces, political and electoral systems for Cambodia and the declaration of fundamental human rights.

He said the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, which was to resume its work at the end of October, would allow for a finalizing and signing of the long-awaited agreement on the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian conflict. Prince Sihanouk said the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), together with the Supreme National Council, constituted the two key elements of the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia.

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In his address to the General Assembly, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, said that despite the extensive damage inflicted by the Iraqi invasion on Kuwait's physical infrastructure and the crimes perpetrated against man and life in all its forms, the reconstruction of his country was well under way. The revitalization process was a huge operation which represented a real challenge for his country.

Sheikh Al-Sabah also conveyed the sentiments of gratitude and appreciation to all those countries that had come to Kuwait's aid in defence of right and justice. The United Nations system, in particular the Security Council, the specialized agencies and the Secretary-General had greatly contributed to the collective defence of Kuwait and to upholding the principles of the United Nations.

Mr. Obed Asamoah, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, pointed out that the statistics of world poverty provided by a number of institutions continued to be disturbing. Despite the dependence of industrial countries for their economic growth on the imports of primary commodities from the developing countries, 70 per cent of world income is produced and consumed by 15 per cent of the world's population in the industrial countries.

In addition, he said, the impact of technological innovation in the industrial countries will undoubtedly widen this gap. The developing world was not asking for charity, since it recognizes that it is ultimately its responsibility to create its own development. However, some concerted measures had to be taken in order to mitigate the economic burden of the developing countries, such as a reduction of the debt-servicing and the stabilization of commodity prices.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Safa Giray, expressed his concern over the ongoing violence in Yugoslavia, since, he said, peace and stability in the Balkan region depend in large measure on what happens in that country. Mr. Giray said his country supported the peace initiatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) countries and sincerely wished that these might yield positive results.

Speaking about the Gulf area situation, Mr. Giray stated that Iraq's full compliance with Security Council resolution 687 and subsequent resolutions relevant to various aspects of the post-war settlement was not only the rightful expectation of the international community, but also a prerequisite for the resumption by Iraq of its place in the family of nations.

On the question of Cyprus, Mr. Giray said that direct contacts between the leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities on the island should lead to the narrowing of differences that still exist today. What is required at the moment, he said, is not recriminations and the pursuit of unrelenting confrontation, but a new mentality which will bring about positive changes.

(more)

Guido de Marco, Foreign Minister of Malta and President of the previous General Assembly, addressed the body this afternoon, saying a multipolar approach in the new international world order could not be based on the global pentagonal of the United States, the Soviet Union, the European Community, China and Japan, but must involve the small- and medium-sized countries.

He also reiterated his country's proposal that the Trusteeship Council, in addition to its function under the Charter, be entrusted not only with territories and men but should also be the Trusteeship Council of the world in environmental matters affecting the common heritage and common concerns of an everlasting humanity. Addressing problems of the developing world, Mr. de Marco said that the United Nations had to be "the conscience of the world" in realizing that there exists a "poverty curtain" and in taking action to remove it.

In his address to the Assembly, President Runaldo R. Venetiaan of Suriname, advocated South-South cooperation and the encouragement of all efforts to strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries.

President Venetiaan said Suriname supports the view that for economic development, these countries should rely increasingly on their own resources and efforts, without isolating themselves from the North. He noted however that problems such as external debt, reverse transfer of resources from developing to industrialized countries and new forms of protectionism, still constituted serious restraints in the development process. He urged the promotion of greater cooperation and the assumption of more responsibilities as a matter of priority.

The Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Madhavsingh Solanki, told the Assembly that his country had noticed a disturbing trend in the economic field. He asserted that attempts were being made to factor non-economic considerations such as good governance, observance of human rights, environment and military expenditure, into the calculus of international and bilateral economic cooperation. He said that India attached high priority to the preservation of the environment and would very much like to reduce its military budget. But these laudable goals should apply to all countries -- developed and developing, he added.

In his statement, the Minister of Education for Papua New Guinea, Utula Samana, said that his country was particularly encouraged by the measures being taken in New Caledonia by the French authorities to promote equitable political, economic and social development in order to provide a framework for that Territory's peaceful evolution to self-determination and independence.

Mr. Samana further stated that his Government would continue to work with other member States of the South Pacific Forum in opposing nuclear testing and the dumping of nuclear and other toxic wastes in that region. He expressed his concern over the nuclear testing activities that France continues to carry out in that area, despite long-standing opposition by the South Pacific Forum.

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In his address to the Assembly, Bernd H. Niehaus, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, said all countries of Central America now counted on democratic Governments. However, he said, paradoxical as it may seem, the advances towards democracy and peace had had negative repercussions in the amounts of international cooperation to the development of Central America. Costa Rica had firm hopes, he said, in the labour of the Association for Democracy and the Development of Central America -- an entity designed to strengthen democratic institutionalization in the area and to attract resources to give impulses to economic reactivization.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Pyotr K. Kravchanka, told the Assembly that he was deeply moved while informing the "world parliament" that on 25 August the decision of the supreme legislative body of the Republic had given the Constitutional status to the Declaration on State Sovereignty. On 19 September the Supreme Soviet decided to rename the State, the "Republic of Belarus", and to establish new state symbols. Negotiations with Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland had already begun to establish bilateral relations with those countries.

Addressing the Assembly last night, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Enrique Dreyfus, expressed concern about the military expenditures of developing countries. Between 1960 and 1988, those expenditures had increased at twice the rate of the increase in per capita income.

The Foreign Minister reiterated his Government's position that war must be outlawed and military expenditures reduced by 50 per cent by the end of the decade. He confirmed that Nicaragua had been able to consolidate its policy of pacification and demilitarization, reducing its armed forces to 21,000 troops; and that of the 22,000 members of the resistance who had been demobilized, 20,000 had been incorporated into normal life. He also said his Government was making great efforts to settle displaced persons and refugees and was giving special emphasis to the Declaration of Central America as a Region of Peace, Freedom, Democracy and Development.

* * *

A report of a high-level panel discussion on the role of the United Nations in the new world order, held in Atlanta, Georgia, on 8 June, concluded that if the United Nations were to have a meaningful role in the new world order, the Organization should itself experience a new order, and that the challenge to the world body was both from within and from outside.

The panel discussion was co-sponsored by United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), which also issued the report, and by the Atlanta Council for International Cooperation, a non-governmental organization.

According to the Executive Director of UNITAR, Michel Doo Kingue, the report is most timely because in his address to the General Assembly on 23 September, United States President, George Bush, who launched the idea of a new world order together with other world leaders, had referred to the need to promote a new world order that would meet the expectation of humankind.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/984
27 September 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Foreign Ministers of five permanent members of Security Council pledge to make preventive diplomacy a top priority and to work for reinforcement of United Nations role in peace-making and peace-keeping.

◆ General Assembly ends first week of annual debate hearing address by President of Cyprus, and statements by Foreign Ministers of Italy, Austria and Yugoslavia. President of Guatemala and Foreign Ministers of Ireland, Iraq, Indonesia, Greece and Gabon also address Assembly.

◆ Legal Committee hears differing views on new economic order and takes up trade law questions.

* * *

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the five permanent members of the Security Council, today met with Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar at a luncheon given by the Secretary-General. Following the meeting, they issued a joint statement pledging, among other things, to make preventive diplomacy a top priority and to work to reinforce the Organization's role in peace-keeping and peace-making.

In the statement, the five Foreign Ministers -- Qian Qichen of China, Roland Dumas of France, Boris D. Pankin of the Soviet Union, Douglas Hurd of the United Kingdom and James A. Baker III of the United States -- reaffirmed that a revitalized United Nations had a central and increasingly important part to play in international affairs, in keeping with the United Nations Charter and in creating a new international order. They said they had reviewed with the Secretary-General the role of the Security Council in the restoration of Kuwait's independence and sovereignty, and agreed that the Council could be effective in upholding international law when it remained firm in its resolve.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

On Iraq, the Ministers found the "persistent Iraqi non-compliance with resolution 687 (1991)", and other relevant Council resolutions, "unacceptable" and reaffirmed their determination to secure Iraq's full compliance in order to restore peace and security to the area.

The Ministers also welcomed the efforts towards a Middle East peace conference, and expressed deep concern over the situation in Yugoslavia and its regional repercussions. On the latter, they also welcomed the unanimous adoption of Wednesday's Security Council resolution 713 (1991).

They also welcomed the progress made in recent months towards a settlement of the Cambodian conflict as well as the signing, on 25 September, of the New York Agreement by representatives of the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional.

* * *

The General Assembly ended today the first week of main debate during which it has heard statements by Presidents, Heads of State and Foreign Ministers representing more than 50 States.

Opening this morning's Assembly debate, the President of Cyprus, George Vassiliou, said Turkish forces continued to occupy nearly 37 per cent of Cyprus, thus dividing the country in two and creating the present status quo. He said that 200,000 people -- one third of the population -- were uprooted from their ancestral homes; over 1,600 missing persons were still unaccounted for and around 70,000 illegal Turkish settlers had been brought over to the occupied area to alter the demographic character of the island.

President Vassiliou emphasized that a solution of the Cyprus problem which would allow the two communities to live and work together in peace and security in a unified federal Cyprus, would benefit all parties and promote security in the Mediterranean and in Europe.

In his statement to the General Assembly, Gianni De Michelis, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, noted that the involvement of the Security Council and the Secretary-General in the management of the Yugoslav crisis was in itself a sign of the new times and of the need for a dynamic interpretation of the role of the United Nations in situations which departed from the classical pattern of inter-State conflicts. The adoption of resolution 713 (1991) by the Security Council reflected, in his opinion, the broad international consensus that exists on the need to try all possible means of containing the crisis in Yugoslavia and encouraging the search for political means of settling it.

He further noted that the right to intervene for humanitarian ends and the protection of human rights was gaining ground. This type of intervention, he said, had become an idée-force, and the most truly innovative concept of the remaining decade of this century.

(more)

The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, Alois Mock, stated that his country deeply deplored the bloodshed, human suffering and destruction caused by the fighting in Yugoslavia, especially in Slovenia and Croatia where the peoples had pronounced themselves in a democratic vote in favour of independence. Austria demanded that the escalating spiral of violence which already had reached Bosnia-Herzegovina be stopped without further delay.

Mr. Mock noted that the future coexistence of the peoples of Yugoslavia would have to be based on the right to self-determination and a renunciation of all change of frontiers by force between the Yugoslav republics, as well as binding agreements on the protection of all minorities and their equal participation in the political process.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar, addressed the current crisis in his country saying that Yugoslavia had become a matter of concern for many international fora and for its friends world-wide. Today's Yugoslavia was a great threat to itself and thus a threat to a larger area.

Mr. Loncar summarized Wednesday's Council resolution which expressed support for the efforts undertaken by the European Community and appealed to all parties in Yugoslavia to settle their disputes peacefully and through negotiations. The Council had also decided that all States should impose immediately an embargo on weapons deliveries to Yugoslavia.

After all that had happened, Mr. Loncar said, it was obvious that Yugoslavia should be redefined. It was necessary that a formula be found which recognized both the legitimate national aspirations and contemporary needs for an integration on a new basis. He believed that there was hope for such an outcome. Though still fragile, the breakthrough made a couple of days ago, through the agreement on the implementation of the cease-fire, was an encouraging step forward, he said.

Opening this afternoon's debate, the President of Guatemala, Jorge Serrano Elias, said that efforts were under way to put an end to 30 years of internal conflict in his country. He explained that his initiative, put forward three months after taking office, contained four main points: the enhancement of respect of the human rights of every Guatemalan; greater socio-economic equity; a strengthening of the rule of law; and the consolidation of the democratic process.

Speaking this afternoon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Gerard Collins, addressed the situation in Northern Ireland saying it was his Government's aim to build on what unites both traditions in Ireland and on the shared interest of the British and Irish peoples to bring peace and reconciliation.

During the past year, tentative steps were taken towards getting a dialogue under way, and last March the two Governments and the elected leaders of democratic parties in Northern Ireland agreed on a set of negotiating

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structures appropriate to their relationships. Mr. Collins emphasized that there were indeed factors at work for progress and he urged that whatever fragile progress was made in recent months should be preserved.

The Foreign Minister for Iraq, Ahmed Hussein, reiterated the necessity of implementing the provisions of the United Nations Charter equitably and without discrimination. Speaking extensively on the Gulf war and its aftermath, he said, "the fact remains that America is responsible above all others for the suffering of the Iraqi people".

The continuation of the inhuman embargo against Iraq and its people in spite of the Iraqi acceptance of all Security Council resolutions, he said, was "a flagrant exploitation of the suffering of the Iraqi people for purely political aims".

He called the continued economic embargo a violation of human rights, saying as a result, "more than 18 million Iraqis are being deprived of their food and medicine and consequently exposed to starvation and deadly epidemics".

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Ali Alatas, expressed to the Assembly his country's satisfaction that efforts to bring an end to the Cambodian tragedy had now reached its final stages. He said that since last September, the pace of the peace process had picked up dramatically, resulting in a number of decisive breakthroughs. Although some delicate work in tying up loose ends still remained, it could be said that "at last we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and this time it is not the light of an on-rushing train".

In his statement to the Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, Adonis Samaras, reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the endeavours of the Council of European Communities towards European integration. He assured delegates that the Europe his country envisaged will not only constitute the cornerstone for democracy, stability and peace, it will also be "upfront in the fight against terrorism and drugs", an area his country had been giving the utmost importance.

Pledging his Government's support for "every effort the United Nations is called upon to make for the promotion of democracy and human rights throughout the world", Mr. Samaras told the Assembly that Greece takes special pride in witnessing the flowering of democracy throughout the world, and this fall will begin to celebrate the birth of democracy there some 2,500 years ago.

Pascaline Merri Bongo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, stated that only a vast overhaul of international economic relations, which would take into consideration the interests of the North and the South, could lead to the overall economic improvement of African countries. One of the main hurdles to the continent's development, she said, was the African debt, today exceeding $270 billion. This problem, which affects adversely the economy of most African countries, should be tackled, in her opinion, within a regional context.

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The Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday concluded its discussion of the progress towards a new international economical order and took up the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Some speakers expressed the view that the economic disparities between North and South had increased since the mid-1970s when the topic of the new international economic order was first discussed at the United Nations. Others noted that the topic had produced some of the most contentious disagreements in the history of the Organization.

The Chairman of UNCITRAL, Kazuaki Sono, introduced the Commission's report, citing progress made on a draft model law on international credit transfers, procurement, guarantees and stand-by letters of credit, as well as of international counter-trade and legal aspects of electronic data interchange.

Speakers participating in the following debate urged that work on the draft model law be completed at the next UNCITRAL session. Representatives from developing countries noted that for many countries, high-speed credit transfers were not the norm; rules were still needed to manage credit transfers via existing technologies.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/985
30 September 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council welcomes New York Agreement of 25 September by Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional.

- Secretary-General welcomes announcement by United States President concerning nuclear weapons and forces.

- General Assembly hears addresses by Presidents of Sao Tome and Principe and Ukraine, followed by statements by Foreign Ministers of United Republic of Tanzania, Egypt, Pakistan and Poland. President of Ecuador and Foreign Ministers of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Uruguay also address Assembly.

- Secretary-General says ageing of world's population is one of the most important demographic phenomena of our time in message to mark first International Day for Elderly, tomorrow.

- Secretary-General calls for a strengthening of the international debt strategy.

- Children's Rights Committee begins first session in Geneva.

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The Security Council welcomed today the New York Agreement signed on 25 September by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) which provides guarantees and conditions on a peaceful settlement to the armed conflict. The Agreement includes the provisions concerning the reintegration of the members of the FMLN, within a framework of full legality, into the civil, institutional and political life of the country.

By its unanimous resolution, adopted after an oral report by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Council commended the parties for the flexibility and seriousness which they demonstrated through the course of the recent talks in New York. It urged both sides at the next negotiating

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For information media—not an official record

round, to begin on 12 October, to proceed at an intensive and urgent pace to reach at the earliest possible date a cease-fire and an overall settlement to the armed conflicts, in accordance with the framework of the New York Agreement.

The Council further urged both sides to exercise maximum restraint in order to create the best climate for a successful last stage of the negotiations; and called upon both sides to continue to cooperate fully with United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

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The Secretary-General has warmly welcomed what he terms the "timely and far-reaching" announcement by United States President George Bush on 27 September, outlining a number of unilateral measures to cut down on nuclear weapons and forces.

In a statement attributable to his Spokesman, the Secretary-General said the announcement comprised a most substantial set of measures that would further the process of nuclear disarmament and further de-escalate the threat of nuclear war. The steps envisaged could go a long way towards strengthening international peace and security.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar also expressed hope that discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union relating to the proposal by President Bush for the elimination of certain multiple nuclear warheads would commence as soon as possible. The success of those negotiations would be of utmost importance to the world as a whole, he said.

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Opening the second week of the General Assembly's debate this morning, Miguel Trovoada, President of Sao Tome and Principe, said in his address that the economic situation in the African countries has been steadily deteriorating over the past few years, despite efforts made by their Governments to improve the plight of their populations.

Mr. Trovoada called on the community of industrialized nations to contribute financially to the economic and social development of Africa.

In his address, the President of Ukraine, Leonid M. Kravchuk, noted that his Government had proclaimed Ukraine independent on 24 August -- the beginning of a new era in the history of his country.

Speaking on behalf of Ukrainians who had suffered the disastrous effects of the Chernobyl tragedy, he urged Governments, primarily those of nuclear powers, to display enough political will and take immediate measures so that nuclear testing could be stopped forever.

Mr. Kravchuk welcomed the latest proposal by United States President Bush, supported by leaders of nuclear powers, for the drastic cuts in

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short-range nuclear weapons, saying they were a significant step towards a more secure future. Ukraine wanted to become directly involved in the disarmament negotiating process, the Ukrainian President said.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, Ahmed Hassan Diria, stated that, although the ending of East-West confrontation had fostered greater cooperation in international relations, it had not led to "quantum reduction of major problems". He cited the economic plight of the third world, the eradication of apartheid in South Africa, attainment of national self-determination for the Palestinians, the return of all occupied Arab territories and the democratization of the international system as remaining problems.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Amre Moussa, underlined the importance of the initiative taken by the United States to convene a Middle East peace conference. Under the recent international developments, the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the Palestinian Question at its core, had entered a new phase, he said.

Mr. Moussa said however that the continuation of the policy and practice of construction of settlement on occupied Arab and Palestinian territories had a negative effect on the prospect for peace, as it attempts to entrench a fait accompli that represents the violation of law and legitimacy.

In his statement, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju, noted that the people of the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir had risen to demand their inalienable right to self-determination -- a right solemnly pledged to the Kashmiri people by India, Pakistan and the international community in various resolutions adopted by the United Nations. The future of Jammu and Kashmir must be decided in accordance with the will of the people through free and impartial elections under the United Nations auspices. He said the situation in those areas had greatly deteriorated and even Indian human rights organizations and media had acknowledged the grave human rights violations by Indian forces in those areas.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, stated that the reactivation of growth in the developing countries and the re-orientation of economies of the new democracies to market rules were of paramount importance. The model of world trade must change; protectionism was wrong for consumers and was harmful for producers, he said.

Addressing the Assembly this afternoon, the President of Ecuador, Rodrigo Borja, spoke of the sweeping changes in the world, saying that in Latin America, "never have so many of our countries lived under democratic systems". But, he said, this political progress was not matched by economic prosperity or social well-being. "Our democracies are sailing through rough waters and we, the Latin American statesmen, are trying to hold our bearing in the thick of the storm."

On behalf of his Government, he expressed support for the initiative of the Economic and Social Council, to call a world summit for an in-depth look

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at the issue of social development and for a search for new indicators and formulas to measure human development.

The Under-Secretary for Political Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Sayyid Haytham Bin Tariq Bin Taimor Al-Said, said the Kuwait crisis was the greatest test to the new world order following the cold war, and that the new world order had "with God's blessing", passed the test. Asserting that the United Nations had achieved a great triumph, Mr. Al-Said said that the international community had decisively demonstrated that international relations should be governed by international law. He expressed his Government's appreciation to all the "fraternal and friendly " States which supported the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries during the crisis and told the Assembly that Oman had been working, along with other regional members of the GCC, on future arrangements for security and stability in the region.

The Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, in his statement, thanked all the countries, peoples and organizations who supported Saudi Arabia in defence of its security during the Gulf crisis.

On behalf of his Government, he voiced full support for United States efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. He affirmed his Government's view that the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, was a serious violation of international law and United Nations resolutions. The Saudi Prince expressed the hope that the international community would apply to the Palestinian question the same principles it applied to the Gulf crisis, so that the international legality would be firmly established and the principles of justice, freedom and the right of peoples to self-determination strongly upheld.

In his statement, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Raul Manglapus, stated that, following its democratic traditions, the people of the Philippines were presently gathering signatures for a national referendum on the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security which the Government of that country had signed with the United States but which had been rejected by the Philippine Senate. "In our direct democracy", he said, "we respect our Senate, but we also respect our people". The Senate and the people must rule together, he said.

Mr. Manglapus further expressed the view that the United Nations was not only a forum of States or a conciliator of multilateral contradictions. It was above all a proclaimer and promoter of democratic values.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Hector Gros Espiell, drew the Assembly's attention to the launching of the Uruguay Round, five years ago, aimed at putting an end to the protectionist waves which erode commercial exchanges. He stated that the Round would not reach a successful ending if a "satisfactory solution concerning the liberalization of agricultural trade" was not reached, and he affirmed his country's intention to contribute to such success.

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Emphasizing that the last leg of the trade negotiations must reach a positive outcome in December, the Foreign Minister stated that if the talks fail, "we shall have to admit our shameful incapacity in today's world, to achieve formulas that encourage the free and non-discriminatory international trade that banishes protectionism and becomes an element of vigorous development".

The aging of the world's population was one of the most important demographic phenomena of our time, stated Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in a message to mark the first International Day for the Elderly, tomorrow.

By the year 2025, he said, it was expected that the elderly would represent nearly 15 per cent of the total population of the globe. This prognosis had important policy implications which must be taken into account by development planners and other decision-makers.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that in designating 1 October as the International Day for the Elderly, the General Assembly had emphasized that the elderly are a valuable asset to society and had underscored the significant role they must play in the development process, as well as the need to protect and promote their rights.

In separate development, the Secretary-General today responded to questions by correspondents on his role as a negotiator in the Yugoslavian crisis. He said he was in contact with the crisis mediator, Lord Carrington, and all the European organizations: the European Economic Community (EEC), the Western European Union (WEU), and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), "in order to be as helpful as possible." This action, the Secretary-General said, was within the mandate he had received from the Security Council.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was a powerful tool for bringing about real and lasting changes in the lives of children, Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General, told the Committee on the Rights of the Child as it opened its first session this morning in Geneva.

During its three-week meeting, the Committee, which is charged with monitoring the implementation of the Convention, will adopt its rules of procedure and swear in its 10 members. It will also determine the form and contents of reports to be submitted by States parties to the Convention on the progress made in fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty. The first report of a country is due two years after it has ratified the document.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the first instrument ever to give children's rights the force of international law, was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989, 30 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Unlike the Declaration, the Convention obligates States which accept it to be legally accountable for their actions towards children.

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The Secretary-General has called for a strengthening of the international debt strategy. In his report on the external debt crisis of 18 September, the Secretary-General says that with the debt crisis entering its second decade and totalling some $1.2 trillion world-wide, it would be "premature to assert that the end of the crisis is near".

Citing the fact that only two countries -- Mexico and Chile -- had been able to resume borrowing, he said most debt-stroken countries still needed additional rounds of rescheduling. He recommended the lowering of international interest rates, an increased flow of international capital to heavily indebted countries, and improved access to global markets.

He concluded that there was room to improve the effectiveness of the current debt strategy "by raising the scale of debt reduction and enlarging the scope of debt eligible for restructuring".

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/986
1 October 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Secretary-General expresses deep regret over recent violent events in Haiti which, he says, pose grave threats to democracy; the Haitian Ambassador to the United Nations calls on the international community to help the Haitian people restore the democratic process.

◆ United Nations inspection team, which was detained in Baghdad, arrives in Bahrain to prepare report to Security Council.

◆ General Assembly is addressed by Prime Ministers of Hungary and Peru, and by Foreign Ministers of Bolivia, Syria and Cuba. President of Zimbabwe and Foreign Ministers of Kenya, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Qatar also address Assembly.

◆ World Economic Survey update says total global production and income have declined this year for the first time since Second World War.

◆ Decolonization Committee Chairman says focus of current session will be on Caribbean and Pacific Territories.

◆ Director-General appeals for international assistance for Africa's economic recovery and development, as Financial Committee begins work.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has expressed deep regret over the recent violent events in Haiti, where, according to press reports, 26 people had been killed and 200 wounded.

In a statement last night, the Secretary-General said he was worried about the fate of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had been overthrown by the military, and disturbed at the grave threats posed to democracy, which the people of Haiti had just established through free and fair elections, with the assistance of the United Nations. He expressed hope that calm would soon be restored and that the democratic process would resume in accordance with the Constitution.

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For information media—not an official record

The President of the Security Council, Jean-Bernard Merimee of France, said last night that the Ambassador of Haiti had informed him of the situation in his country. Mr. Merimee expressed his full support to the statement by the Secretary-General.

At a press conference today, Haitian Ambassador Fritz Longchamp said President Aristide was alive and well in Venezuela, and that, as far as the President was concerned, what happened yesterday was only "a brief interruption". He said President Aristide was expected to attend a ministerial level meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) tomorrow in Washington.

The Haitian Ambassador said his Government wanted the international community to support the Haitian people in their effort to restore the democratic process, to "flatly reject the coup attempt", to express support for the democratic process in Haiti, not to recognize any Government or envoy that would come from the coup, and to state that the restoration of the democratic process in Haiti meant the reinstatement of Father Aristide in his capacity as President of Haiti.

The Haitian Ambassador also said his Government was disturbed by the reaction of the Security Council in not granting a meeting last night, because according to the Charter, any Member that has requested a meeting should be granted that request. He said members of the Council had decided it was an internal affair in which the Council should not get involved. He called the decision "unfair and a denial of Haiti's rights as a legitimate Member".

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The United Nations inspectors who were detained in Baghdad last week have arrived in Bahrain where they are preparing a report on their mission to the Security Council.

After being detained by Iraqi authorities in Baghdad for four days, the team was released on Saturday morning with the documents they had uncovered on Iraq's nuclear development programme. The team completed its work on Sunday with the inspection of four additional sites.

Team members are expected to leave Bahrain and arrive in Vienna on Friday for meetings on the mission's results with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other officials.

In a related development, concerning allegations that the team had transmitted communications to Washington, a United Nations Spokesman told correspondents today that the inspection team did not have FAX facilities, that they did transmit documents by reading them on the telephone and that "by their own admission they did transmit documents to Washington by telephone". The Spokesman went on to say that if that was the case, "it was most improper and regrettable, and they were told not to do so. And they were told it was

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most improper".

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The first speaker in the General Assembly debate this morning, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia, Carlos Iturralde-Ballivian, said his country had contributed to the struggle against drug trafficking, but much remained to be done. The concept of alternative development, which meant replacing the coca economy by a diversified, internationally accepted alternative economy, had been presented for the first time by President Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia.

The Bolivian Foreign Minister noted that the principle of collective or shared responsibility between producer and consumer States must be emphasized. He said his country had an obligation to add its voice to the continuing appeal for a prompt and effective increase of financial and technical resources, to adequately carry out existing programmes nationally, regionally and world-wide.

In his statement, the Prime Minister of Hungary, Dr. Jozsef Antall, said that three and a half decades had passed since the people of Hungary stood up against the communist dictatorship and foreign occupation under the banner of freedom, independence and democracy.

Now, he said, the objectives of 1956 had been fulfilled and his country had indeed become free, independent and democratic, "where the profound changes are irreversible". In June this year, he said, the last units of Soviet troops had left Hungary.

He then turned attention to the tragic events in Yugoslavia, saying there was a mistaken belief in world public opinion that there was a cease-fire violated by sporadic incidents. "In reality", he said, "there is an ongoing cruel war there". He called for continued efforts by the international community to put an end to the bloodshed.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Syria, Farouk Al-Shara', said his country, having faced continuous occupation and aggression for decades, now had found an historic opportunity in the new international changes to rectify wrong situations in its region; clarify facts that had been distorted; restore lands that had been occupied and rights which had been usurped; and participate in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He called for the elimination of the substantial causes which had prompted the United Nations to adopt the resolution equating zionism with racism, stating that repealing this resolution first required the termination of Israeli occupation of Arab lands, and the restoration of the right to self-determination by the Palestinian people.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Isidoro Malmierca, today praised the achievement of the Cuban revolution saying his country would not renounce socialism. He also drew the Assembly's attention to the continued "total

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economic blockade" launched against Cuba in 1962 by the United States, which banned the import of Cuban goods, all goods coming from and through Cuba, and later the supply of medicines and foodstuffs. He said the estimated damages caused by the blockade over the past 30 years amounted to over $15 billion.

Mr. Malmierca also spoke about the presence of foreign troops on Cuban soil, saying that the Government of Cuba would be willing to accept the simultaneous withdrawal of Soviet and United States military personnel from his country. He said that would be the only "equitable, just and honourable action under the present circumstances".

In his statement, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, noted that international security was today determined by elements beyond considerations of a mere military and strategic nature; they were closely related to social and economic challenges. The Peruvian Minister proposed the convening of a World Summit for Social Development; it was necessary that a new and enhanced approach to social issues be tackled within the United Nations.

Mr. Torres y Torres Lara then addressed the illegal action of drug trafficking linked to terrorism, which, he said, had caused profound negative effects in his country. To overcome that situation, the President of Peru had initiated an integrated policy of drug control and alternative development. Included in that policy was the creation of secure property rights for farmers, the deregulation of markets for other crops and citizen participation in the rule-making process.

Opening this afternoon's Assembly debate, the President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, urged the implementation of collective security arrangements based on the Charter of the United Nations, including the possibility of assigning national military contingents to serve under the authority of the Security Council.

He also called on the developed countries to show the necessary cooperation and support in addressing the acute problems facing the developing countries in the areas of protectionism in trade, commodity prices, external debt, transfer of resources and transfer of technology. He expressed hope that the Europe of 1992 and other emerging trading blocs would keep their doors open and not become "trade fortresses".

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Kenya, Wilson Ndolo Ayah, underlined the necessity for the international community and the African countries to renew their commitment to a new agenda of cooperation for sustained social and economic development in Africa. To achieve that goal, he said, urgent action was necessary to accelerate economic growth to an average real growth rate of at least 6 per cent per annum of gross national product throughout the period of the new agenda, with the aim of increasing income and eradicating poverty.

He also drew attention to the situation arising from the traffic of refugees seeking temporary relief in his country, with the assistance from the

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other donor agencies. The dimension and the complexities of that problem were far beyond the resources of Kenya, he said, calling for urgent assistance from the international community.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Rashid Abdullah al-Nuaimi, acknowledged that among the lessons drawn from the Gulf crisis is the potential for devastation in acquiring arms in general and weapons of mass destruction in particular.

He said his country's position had always been to render the Middle East region free from weapons of mass destruction. The Minister told the Assembly that the United Arab Emirates supports the initiatives and efforts aimed at the prevention of producing, acquiring and stockpiling those weapons, as well as the destruction of those in stock.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Tran Quang Co, said that the attendance for the first time at a United Nations General Assembly of the delegation of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia as well as the agreements reached among the Cambodian parties at the recent meetings of the Supreme National Council on the internal aspects of a solution to the Cambodian question were new important steps in the process of restoring peace in that country.

Mr. Quang Co reiterated the position of his Government whereby it would respect any decision of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia on all matters pertaining to Cambodian sovereignty, and said Viet Nam was ready to join efforts with parties concerned in order to reach a comprehensive, fair and reasonable political solution to the Cambodian question.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Mubarak bin Ali Al-Khater, stated that the events of August last year had confronted the Arab States of the Gulf region with their collective responsibility to preserve their peace and ensure their territorial integrity. He said those States had unanimously determined to set forth, in participation with some other Arab States and some friendly nations, security arrangements that would ensure the non-recurrence of what happened last year.

In his statement last night, the Minister for External Affairs of Gambia, Omar Sey, stated that continued international pressure on the South African regime had yielded some positive results. Nevertheless, he said, the dismantling of the legislative pillars of apartheid does nor go far enough. What was urgently required, in his opinion, was the practical elimination of apartheid in all facets of South African society and this called for the enfranchisement of all South Africans. His Government, he said, was unreservedly committed to the attainment of this objective.

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According to the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, 1991 will mark the first year since the end of the Second World War that total production and income in the world have declined.

The information was contained in an update of the World Economic Survey which was released today. The update says that in every other year, the economic downturns in some countries were offset by economic growth in others. However, this year economic decline is so widespread -- and so deep in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union -- that it fully negates the positive impact of the more dynamic economies.

The pattern of developments broadly follow the lines anticipated in the 1991 World Economic Survey which was published in June. However, the degree and spread of economic contraction appear to have been underestimated. The update says that global recovery is still expected to begin in 1992 and to be rather slow.

* * *

The General Assembly's Fourth Committee (Decolonization) began today its work for the current session, hearing introductions of two draft resolutions.

By one draft text, the Assembly would call upon all States "to take urgent, effective measures to terminate all collaboration with the racist regime of South Africa, in particular in the military and nuclear fields", and to refrain from entering into other relations which run counter to the maintenance of existing sanctions against the regime.

By the other draft resolution, the Assembly would "strongly condemn the continuing collaboration of certain countries with the racist regime in the military and nuclear fields" and would call for termination of all such collaborations.

In an opening statement, the Chairman, Charles S. Flemming (Saint Lucia), said that the Committee would focus its attention on the remaining 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories which were located predominantly in the Caribbean and Pacific subregions.

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The Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, in a wide-ranging review of the world economy this morning before the Second Committee (Economic and Financial), made a strong appeal for international assistance for Africa's economic recovery and development.

Director-General Antoine Blanca also said that the still-fragile political fabric of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe could be threatened by the economic problems they faced in the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy. The staggering cost of that transition was now only being realized, he said, unless substantial assistance was offered to those countries.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/987
2 October 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General appeals to all parties in conflict in Yugoslavia to reduce hostilities and accept European Economic Community's efforts towards peace.

- President of Security Council says Council has concluded that necessary conditions do not exist for modification of sanctions against Iraq.

- Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it authorize establishment of United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia to begin as soon as comprehensive agreement is signed.

- General Assembly is addressed this morning by Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago; Foreign Ministers of Bahrain, Israel and Bangladesh; Premier of Administrative Council of Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Foreign Ministers of Thailand, Jordan, Namibia and Bhutan also make statements.

- Secretary-General decides to transfer, as of 1 November, day-to-day management and administrative support of United Nations Border Relief Operation from United Nations Development Programme to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

- Social progress is no match for economic growth in Asia-Pacific region, says report by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

- Board of Directors of International Monetary Fund predicts that current recession in industrial countries will be "relatively short-lived".

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has appealed to all parties in Yugoslavia to reduce the hostilities and to "help the peaceful efforts of the European Economic Community (EEC) countries".

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For information media—not an official record

He made the appeal this morning when asked by correspondents whether he was considering any new initiatives to try and stop the fighting now that the cease-fire had apparently broken down again.

The Secretary-General told correspondents that he was "extremely concerned" about the present situation and that he hoped that "wisdom would prevail".

He said the efforts at mediation by Lord Carrington, representing the EEC, should be supported by all parties and he should be given time to create the necessary atmosphere for a negotiated solution of the problem.

The Security Council expressed its unanimous support for the efforts of the EEC in a resolution last week.

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The Security Council today held consultations as part of its regular 60-day review of sanctions against Iraq, in accordance with paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991), which set the terms for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf conflict.

Following consultations, the Council President, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan of India, read out a statement saying that after hearing all the opinions expressed in the course of the consultations, he had concluded that the necessary conditions had not been met for a modification of the regime established in paragraph 20 of the so-called cease-fire resolution, as required in paragraph 21 of that resolution.

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The Secretary-General has recommended to the Security Council that it authorize the establishment of a United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), which would assume its functions as soon as a comprehensive agreement is signed. It is expected that such an agreement will be signed at the end of October.

In a report to the Security Council, dated 30 September, the Secretary-General proposed that the advance mission would assist the Cambodian parties in maintaining the present cease-fire, and would also begin to clear out land mines.

The mission would eventually be absorbed into the long-term mission known as UNTAC -- the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia -- which is envisaged to verify the cease-fire and oversee elections.

In terms of staffing, the Secretary-General has estimated that the advance mission would require eight civilian liaison staff, 50 military liaison officers, 20 other military personnel for mine-clearing, and about 75 international and 75 local civilian support staff. In addition, a military communications unit of some 40 persons could be provided by Australia.

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The mission, which is to be headquartered in Phnom Penh, would cost an estimated $19.9 million for six months of operation. Deployment is envisioned in two stages -- the first group would arrive around the end of October when the peace agreement is signed, and the second group would arrive between mid-November and mid-December.

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Opening this morning's General Assembly debate, the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago, Marjorie Thorpe, said that island developing States, aware of the grave threat that climate change and sea-level rise may pose to their very existence, have already formed themselves into the interregional "Alliance of Small Island States" (AOSIS), and have undertaken a critical coordinating role in the climate negotiations to be completed before the holding of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will take place in Brazil in 1992.

Speaking about illicit traffic and use of drugs, Ms. Thorpe reiterated the support of her Government for the strengthening of the United Nations activities within the new International Drug Control Programme. This development, she said, should allow for a coherent and integrated strategy.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Shaikh Mohamed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, said the war for the liberation of Kuwait had drawn a parting line between the end of the cold war era and the start of the era of the new world order, which had begun by repulsing the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, on the basis of the principles of collective security.

That, however, did not mean that the sources of the threat and use of force had been eliminated with the termination of the cold war. Outlining his country's perspective of the future components of regional security in the Gulf, Mr. Al-Khalifa said it was necessary to avert any potential military danger to the States of the region through security arrangements capable of deterring any aggressor, and to achieve overall development in its economic, social and cultural aspects. Other points of importance were non-interference in internal affairs of States and respect for the principle of the sovereignty of every State, as well as adherence to the principle of settlement of disputes by peaceful means, exclusively.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, David Levy, said that many countries realized today that the root causes of the long-lasting Israeli-Arab conflict lay in the refusal of the Arab States, excluding Egypt, to recognize the existence of Israel and to come to terms with its sovereign independence. He noted that the efforts made by his country to seek peace talks with its neighbours appeared to be finally fruitful. In a few weeks, he said, Israel hoped, through face-to-face discussions with its neighbours, to establish the foundations of a better path for our peoples and for our future generations. He appealed to the leaders of the Arab States to stop the race for destructive weapons in the area.

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In his statement, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mostafizur Rahman, said human rights had assumed a dominant position in world affairs. The real strength of society was the indomitable spirit of the human being.

For Bangladesh, he said, the fight against poverty and steps to unlock growth remained the foremost challenge to shore up democracy. He said his country's core strategy revolved around Human Resources Development, a concept that combined peoples' participation, poverty alleviation, environmental supportive growth and advancement of human rights and welfare. Its fundamental goal, he said, was to bring the deprived and disadvantaged from the periphery to the centre of development. The right to development, he said, was the most fundamental human right of all.

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Premier of the Administrative Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Yon Hyong Muk, expressed the gratitude of his Government for the unanimous adoption of his country as a new Member of the United Nations.

Reiterating the position of his Government, he said that Korea's reunification should be considered as the reunification of a nation, not unification of the systems through one side conquering or being conquered by the other. His Government believed that only a confederal unification was the most realistic and peace-loving way. He further stated that the adoption of a North-South non-aggression declaration should be the starting point in removing the military confrontation in the Korean peninsula, and fundamentally improving North-South relations. In his opinion, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Korean peninsula should also be considered.

Opening this afternoon's general debate, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Arsa Sarasin, said peace in Cambodia was finally at hand. Thailand had maintained, since the beginning of the problem almost 13 years ago, that Cambodians must be given the right to determine their own destiny. After a decade of war, they had finally decided to talk to one another, he said.

Mr. Sarasin expressed his country's support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk and to the Supreme National Council. In anticipation of the forthcoming elections in Cambodia, he said Thailand would do its best to help ensure that an orderly repatriation of the displaced Cambodians would take place.

In his statement to the general debate, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan, Abdullah Nsour, insisted on the right of the Palestinians to participate in the forthcoming peace conference on the Middle East, through representatives nominated by them of their own free will. He said that his Government had also accepted a formula for Palestinian participation through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, should the Palestinian side agree, but leaving the Palestinian side to handle the Palestinian-Israeli aspect of the problem with Israel, while the Jordanian side would deal with the Jordanian-Israeli aspect.

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situation in the Middle East, and the problems associated with reform in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, as reasons for a possible slow recovery.

According to the report, prospects for the developing countries are less favourable than had been expected, particularly for countries in Africa, due in part to the weakening of growth in the industrial countries and the drop in non-oil commodity prices.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/988
3 October 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Security Council holds consultations to discuss situation in Haiti; will convene formal meeting tonight with participation of Haitian President.

◆ General Assembly is addressed by President of interim Government of Liberia and Foreign Ministers of Cameroon, Bulgaria, Morocco and Côte d'Ivoire. Permanent Representative of Guinea and Foreign Ministers of Mongolia, Burundi, Mauritania and Jamaica, as well as Permanent Representative of Malawi also make statements.

◆ Chairman of Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee says action is needed to combat disease and ignorance in developing countries, as well as drug abuse, crime and imbalanced distribution of wealth in developed world.

◆ Economic and Financial Committee told that transition to market economy should head United Nations agenda.

◆ Legal Committee speakers favour new mechanisms for peaceful settlement of disputes.

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The Security Council held consultations this morning to discuss the situation in Haiti, where on Monday, 30 September, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown by the military.

A United Nations Spokesman told correspondents at noon that the Council, during consultations, had decided to convene a formal meeting at 8 p.m. tonight to hear an address by President Aristide, to be followed by a statement by the Permanent Representative of Honduras, speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group as its Chairman.

The Spokesman said Honduras had requested the inscription on the General Assembly's agenda of a new item concerning the situation in Haiti and that a draft resolution was being prepared for adoption by the Assembly.

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For information media—not an official record

Following the events in Haiti on Monday, the Secretary-General expressed concern at the grave threat posed to democracy, which the Haitian people had just established through United Nations-supervised free and fair elections.

In a related development, the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Frederico Mayor, has appealed for the respect of democratic freedoms and a return to constitutional order in Haiti.

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Opening this morning's debate in the General Assembly, the President of the interim Government of Liberia, Amos Sawyer, expressed hope that the crisis in his country was now ending. "For the first time in our crisis", he said, "all sides seem convinced that we have now begun the final stretch in the journey to a lasting settlement". He expressed gratification to the member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its cease-fire monitoring group (ECOMOG), saying it was this Group that put an end to the carnage and destruction that was going on in Liberia.

He said Liberia needed peace, and reaffirmed the interim Government's commitment to the holding of free and fair general and presidential elections under international supervision.

He urgently appealed to all nations to offer substantial assistance to the countries presently engaged in the peace-keeping effort in Liberia.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Foreign Minister for External Relations of Cameroon, Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh, stressed the difficult economic situation that most developing countries have to face at the present time. It was unbearable, he said, that the poor countries continue to channel the little financial resources they have towards the rich countries, while public aid to development is decreasing; the prices of primary commodities are declining and the social and political costs of the structural adjustment programmes are increasingly higher.

Mr. Booh-Booh called on the community of industrialized nations to adopt measures which would enable the developing countries to overcome the economic crisis, such as the reduction of the debt and the formulation of strategies to fight underdevelopment and social decay.

In his statement, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria Victor Vulkov said his country had been actively supporting the efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the European Economic Community (EEC) in seeking a peaceful settlement to the crisis in Yugoslavia. However, he said, the concrete results of these efforts to contribute to an adequate solution had not yet met the expectations.

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Mr. Vulkov said Bulgaria was in favour of seeking a solution to the conflict by reasonable dialogue, with strict observance of human rights, the interests of all republics and the legitimate expression of their will for self-determination and a free choice of a form of government.

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Foreign Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco, Abdellatif Filali, reiterated the great importance that his country attached to the "so-called question of Western Sahara". The social, religious and historical ties between Sahara and other provinces of Morocco, he said, had blended the entire Moroccan territory into "one melting pot". Mr. Filali also expressed support for the 1986 Plan approved in April by the Security Council, stressing that it could be implemented in successive stages. However, he said, the translation of its provisions into practical measures would require consultations. He finally expressed the hope that the cooperation and understanding prevailing between Morocco and the Secretary-General of the United Nations would contribute to the settlement to the question at the beginning of next year.

Amara Essy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, explained that his Government, with the help of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), had been trying to render assistance to about 320,000 Liberian refugees in Côte d'Ivoire while they waited to return to their homes. Their return, however, depended on the restoration of peace and security in Liberia, he said.

Mr. Essy also expressed concern over the deterioration of the economic situation of Africa; its external debt had been going up steadily, while the prices of its primary commodities stagnated, he said. He called for efforts to be made towards an effective transfer of technology enabling the developing countries to manufacture their primary products.

Speaking in the debate, the Permanent Representative of Guinea, Zainoul Abidine Sanoussi, said that the massive influx of almost half a million refugees from Liberia had placed a very serious economic, environmental and health burden on his country. He expressed the hope that Liberia would shortly overcome its internal difficulties in order to put an end to the suffering of its people and called on the international community to render long-term financial and economic assistance to the Liberian refugees temporarily settled in Guinea.

Mr. Sanoussi also drew attention to the economic difficulties of the developing countries which, he said, still suffer primarily from the decline of the prices of their primary commodities as well as from the huge debt burden.

Minister for External Relations of Mongolia, Tserenpiliin Gombosuren, told the Assembly that his country attached great importance to strengthening mutual understanding and trust in Asia, and had offered in the past some ideas towards this end. In particular, Mongolia had proposed to hold, on a regular

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basis, a dialogue between the countries of the northern part of Asia and the Pacific to exchange views on ways and means to find optimal solutions to the existing problems.

The Mongolian Minister said that in spite of the diverse mosaic of the Asian continent, with many ethnic, religious, cultural and other differences, the Asian countries had many things in common. He cited urgent problems of economic and social development, degradation of the environment and many others that required active joint efforts, he said.

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Minister for External Relations of Burundi, Cyprien Mbonimpa, said that the formation of a National Unity Government, and the undertaking of a vast operation of repatriation of refugees, reflected the will of his Government to build a just and democratic society in Burundi. A new constitution liberalizing the political life of Burundi should be submitted to referendum at the beginning of 1992, he said. He also pointed out that the proper conditions had been created for the voluntary return of the refugees and that, to date, more than 10,000 people had done so.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritania, Hasni Ould Didi, said the critical economic situation of the developing countries in general, and of the African nations in particular, called for solutions to enable the African countries to generate domestic resources and to favour their economic recovery. If nothing is done, he said, the structural adjustment programmes being presently implemented in those countries will not have contributed to improving their economic and financial situation.

He also expressed the concern of his Government over the desertification process that is affecting Mauritania and welcomed the holding of the next year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil which, he said, should find timely and appropriate solutions to that problem.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, David Coore, told the Assembly that the major outstanding issue of concern for the Caribbean and Latin American region was the continuing "posture of confrontation" that existed between Cuba and the United States. He said there was no doubt that the people of the region would welcome some movement on the part of both countries that could eventually lead to the full reintegration of Cuba into the family of nations.

Mr. Coore also spoke about the debt crisis, now entering its second decade, which he said had created a debilitating condition for many countries in the Caribbean and Latin American region. He called on the international financial institutions to restructure and refinance debts owed by developing countries, and urged that they review the "relevance and efficacy of their traditional prescriptions" for the economies of these developing countries.

In his statement, the Minister of Transport and Communications of Malawi, D.S. Katopola, said his country welcomed the repeal in the middle of this year of the apartheid laws in South Africa, as well as the other measures taken by

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the authorities in that country to move definitively towards the establishment of a just and equitable social, political and economic order. However, he said, the real objective had not yet been achieved and much remained to be done before this is so. Mr. Katopola expressed the hope that collective leadership, pragmatism, patience and foresight would be exercised so that the realization of long-term national interests can be achieved.

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Action was needed to combat disease and ignorance in the developing world, as well as the problems of drug abuse, crime and an imbalanced distribution of wealth, according to the Chairman of the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), Mohammad Hussain Al-Shaali of the United Arab Emirates. Mr. Al-Shaali was delivering his opening remarks to the Committee which began its work for the current session yesterday.

Also addressing the Committee, Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, stressed that the right to development was an integral component of fundamental human rights, adding that global security could only be assured when economic relations between States were balanced, equitable and just.

Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, in his introductory remarks, said economic development was impossible without a firm social foundation. He said developed countries would help promote sustained growth in the developing world if they liberalized trade, reduced interest rates and increased the transfer of resources to developing countries.

* * *

The trend towards a market economy being undertaken by an increasing number of countries should be a priority topic on the United Nations agenda, the Soviet Union told the Second Committee (Economic and Financial), as it continued its debate on the world economic situation.

The Soviet representative, Sergey V. Lavrov, went on to say that it would enable the Organization to reorient its programmes and support the reform process now that the "ideology-based development model" had been discarded.

In other statements, the representatives of Iran, Mexico and Djibouti called for increased international cooperation and an early, successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Speakers also called for a new North-South dialogue based not on ideological confrontation but on the need for agreement on global economic issues such as debt and the relationship between environment and development.

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Delegations at this morning's meeting of the Sixth Committee (Legal) have urged that the United Nations seek new mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. The Committee was continuing its debate on the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

Speakers expressed support for a draft declaration on fact-finding by the United Nations and called for further consideration of a working paper on enhancing the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations presented by the Soviet Union, and for a proposed set of conciliation rules presented to the Sixth Committee at its last session by Guatemala.

Delegations took note of a request by the Secretary-General in his annual report that the General Assembly resort more frequently to advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice. They urged that the Assembly, in its current session, approve a handbook on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. It was also stated during today's debate that there should be a clear balance between the prerogatives of the permanent members of the Security Council and the respect for the principle of sovereign equality between States.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/989
4 October 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council members condemn "grave events" in Haiti and call for restoration of legitimate Government.

- General Assembly to take up new agenda item -- "Crisis of democracy and human rights in Haiti" on Monday, 7 October.

- General Assembly is addressed by President of Nigeria and by Foreign Ministers of Madagascar, Myanmar, Chile and Yemen. Foreign Ministers of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Togo, Congo, Djibouti and Cape Verde, Permanent Representative of Vanuatu, also address Assembly.

- Secretary-General calls on international community to step up efforts to ensure adequate standard of shelter for all mankind, in message to mark World Habitat Day, 7 October.

- Legal Committee debates workings of the Security Council, veto rights, the composition and size of the Council and its "selectivity" of approach.

- United States urges Decolonization Committee to become more responsive to needs of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

- Anti-Apartheid Committee welcomes awarding of 1991 Nobel Literature Prize to South African novelist Nadine Gordimer.

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Members of the Security Council last night strongly condemned the "grave events" in Haiti and called for the restoration of the legitimate Government, according to a statement read by the President of the Council, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan of India. He made that statement following an address to the Council members by the President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The Council convened in response to a request made by Haiti on 30 September that it consider the situation in Haiti and its consequences for regional stability.

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For information media--not an official record

In his opening remarks, the Council President said the "violent usurpation of the legitimate democratic authority and power" in Haiti "deserved to be strongly condemned". Most Council members supported the efforts the Organization of American States (OAS) was making to resolve the situation.

In his address to the Council, President Aristide said the international community must decide not for, but with, the Haitian people, to cry "no" to the dictatorship. With the help of the international community, Haiti had been able to hold free elections. With further help, Haiti would also be able to save its threatened democracy, he said.

The representative of Honduras, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, told the Council that OAS had decided to send a delegation to Haiti to inform the junta that the coup d'état was unacceptable. The delegation, which he said would leave on Friday, 4 October, was to consist of the Secretary-General of the OAS and the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, United States and Venezuela.

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The General Assembly will take up a new agenda item -- "Crisis of democracy and human rights in Haiti" on Monday, 7 October. The request for the inclusion of the new item was made by Honduras, on behalf of the OAU.

In a letter to the Secretary-General yesterday, the Permanent Representative of Honduras, Roberto Flores Bermudez, current Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, said the urgency of the request was obvious. The constitutional order had been brutally overthrown, the media were reporting that many lives had been lost and that repressive measures were being taken in an effort to consolidate the perpetrators of the coup d'état. Accordingly, he said, there was an urgent need for the Haitian people to feel that the international community supported their legitimate democratic aspirations and that, at the same time, for those who had usurped power to know that their inadmissible behaviour could not succeed.

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Opening this morning's debate in the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Madagascar, Césaire Rebenoro, said that his country was favourable to the convening of an international conference on the financing of development in order to consider all the possibilities to find additional resources to that end.

He underlined the seriousness of the economic crisis that the African countries are presently facing, arguing that their national adjustment plans would not be successful if the industrialized nations did not contribute to reducing the financial burden of the developing countries by writing off their debt and by channelling additional financial assistance.

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In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, U Ohn Gyaw, addressed the fight against drug abuse, which he called the "foremost social problem in the world today".

He said that at the bilateral level, Myanmar's active cooperation with neighbouring countries in drug abuse control was making significant headway. Following two rounds of discussion in which representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) participated, an agreement for Myanmar-Thai cooperation on a wide range of anti-narcotics activities was signed by representatives of the two Governments in March. Later this year a similar agreement was entered into with China. Talks with Lao People's Democratic Republic on bilateral cooperation in drug abuse control had also been held and similar talks with Viet Nam were being prepared.

The President of Nigeria, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, told the Assembly that as the review of the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development had shown, the overall performance of the African economy since 1986 had been dismal. The reasons could be attributed mainly to the debt burden, the collapse of commodity prices, the low levels of resource-flows from the developed countries, as well as natural calamities.

The Nigerian President then addressed the coming election of a new Secretary-General of the United Nations, saying that Africa's case for the office had been misinterpreted to mean special pleading. However, he said, the African case was based on competence and justice. Africa strongly believed that the next Secretary-General should be an African. He called on the rest of the world to apply a proper sense of justice in considering the appointment of a new chief of the United Nations.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Enrique Silva-Cimma, told the Assembly that now that the international community had begun to be aware of environmental problems with the holding of the Conference next summer in Brazil, it must also face up equally resolutely to the social problems. For that purpose, he said, there was no alternative multilateral forum to the United Nations system. That was why Chile strongly supported the holding of a world summit for social development.

In his statement, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen, Abdulkarim Al-Eryany, said that in the aftermath of all the complications and the grave military developments witnessed during the Gulf war, the region should work to remove the barriers between the countries. If Europe, he said, with all its nationalities and the disputes that were prevailing, had managed to build its cooperation on common denominators, the Middle East must realize that the bonds that tie it together were not only bonds of nationality and religion, but also of history, geography, language and common fate.

The Yemeni Minister said all countries of the region, including Iraq should participate in that process, which should have as a point of departure, the enabling of the people of Iraq to get over its plight. That required, he said, that the international community should lift the sanctions against Iraq for humanitarian reasons now accepted by most countries.

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The Foreign Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Phoune Sipaseuth, said that south-east Asia was witnessing a new era of cooperation in the economic, social and technical fields.

Speaking about the Cambodian situation, Mr. Sipaseuth welcomed the recent negotiations held in Pattaya, Thailand; in Peking, China; and at United Nations Headquarters in New York, which had enabled different Cambodian parties to come to an agreement on putting an end to the conflict in the region. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, he noted, was expanding its own economic and commercial relations with other countries, with the view to promote the spirit of good will among the nations.

In his statement this afternoon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Togo, Aboudou Toure Cheaka, said that the developing countries were fully aware of their primary responsibility in the field of economic and social development. That is why, he said, a number of initiatives had been taken to promote and strengthen South-South cooperation, while continuing to develop North-South cooperation.

Mr. Cheaka drew attention to the importance of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, which had been signed during the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, held in Abuja, Nigeria in June. It was in the same spirit that the South Commission had submitted its timely and appropriate recommendations at the July regular session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva. These recommendations, he said, clearly indicated that the South was mainly responsible for its own economic development.

The Permanent Representative of Vanuatu, Robert F. Van Lierop, said the decolonization process, particularly that under way in New Caledonia, continued to be a major concern of the countries in the Pacific. The positive measures taken by France to assure tranquility in the Territory, and to promote the economic and social development of its colonized people were much appreciated, he said. What would be even more appreciated would be the moment New Caledonia gained its independence and joined the community of nations as did the two neighbouring Pacific island countries, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, at this Assembly session.

In his statement, the Foreign Minister of the Congo, Jean Blaise Kololo, said that the overall performance of the African economy in the past few years had not been satisfactory. The debt burden, the collapse of commodity prices and the low levels of resource-flow from the developed countries were the main reasons he quoted for the economic crisis in Africa. He expressed the hope that a quick conclusion to the Uruguay Round negotiations would enable the developing countries to begin the path to recovery.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Djibouti, Moumin Bahdon Farah, said that recent events in Ethiopia and Somalia had produced a large number of refugees in the Horn of Africa. Djibouti, he said, had given shelter to about 85,000 of them, which represented a huge burden for his country.

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He stressed that political will was needed at the present time to put an end to the suffering of refugees. At his country's initiative, he reported, two preparatory conferences had taken place in order to bring about national reconciliation in Somalia. The peace agreement that resulted from these talks, he explained, was the only viable framework for the establishment of a genuine democratic society in Somalia. He urged the international community to play an active role -- as it is in the case of Yugoslavia -- in seeking a peaceful resolution to Somalia's conflict.

In his statement, the Foreign Minister of Cape Verde, Jorge Carlos Fonseca, said the democratic process taking place in his country was a valuable contribution to the global effort of democratization and respect for the liberty and fundamental rights of all humans.

He said any violation of human rights should be "condemned outright" by the United Nations. Lately, he said, the world had witnessed all sorts of crimes against the populations of certain countries torn by civil war. "What is more alarming", he said, "is that the United Nations witnesses all these crimes, incapable of taking measures to save lives and protect the defenseless population". He called for better mechanisms and more efficient United Nations action to respond to such situations. Although the principle of sovereignty was a sacred principle, he said, it should be seen as "a shield to protect the people" and not "a sword used against their basic rights".

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In a message to mark World Habitat Day on Monday, 7 October, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has called on the international community, including Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and community groups all over the world to step up their efforts to ensure an adequate standard of shelter for all of humanity.

In his message, the Secretary-General said it was a task of "daunting proportions" to meet the needs of the more than 1 billion people who today did not have adequate shelter. These difficulties must not, however, he said, affect the efforts to actively pursue the objective of adequate shelter for all. The United Nations, through its Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), established in 1978, was committed to assist Governments, particularly those of developing countries, to expand their efforts for human settlements development.

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Speakers in the General Assembly's Sixth Committee (Legal) today, continuing discussion on the report of the Charter Committee, supported the draft declaration on fact-finding by the United Nations.

While some agreed that fact-finding missions should obtain the consent of receiving States, others cited "grey areas" in situations of grave conflict

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and the duration of such missions. The representative of Papua New Guinea suggested that the right to request a fact-finding mission be extended to peoples, as well as to States.

Some speakers called for further consideration of a working paper submitted by the Soviet Union on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. The representative of Guatemala called on the Charter Committee to devote itself to the issue of the composition and size of the Security Council, saying the Council's size had not expanded with United Nations membership. New trends, he said, such as the "community trend" demonstrated by the European Community should be studied.

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The Decolonization Committee should become more responsive to the unique needs of the people in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, leaving out the rhetoric that had little relevance to the actual situation of the Territories. This view was expressed this morning by the representative of the United States, Shirin Tahir-Kheli, as the General Assembly's Fourth Committee (Decolonization) began to debate on activities of foreign, economic and other interests impeding implementation of the General Assembly's 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Among others making statements, Alexander Slaby of Czechoslovakia said that it had been hoped that the cessation of ideological confrontation between East and West would bring about more realistic and rational texts in the draft of resolutions. However, he noted, the draft before the Committee still contained the old-fashioned provisions and unacceptable name-calling of recent years.

The Committee was also expected to discuss military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration, which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid has welcomed the awarding of the 1991 Nobel Prize for literature to novelist Nadine Gordimer, whom it calls "a staunch opponent of apartheid" who had long been associated with the work of the Committee.

In a statement issued today, the Chairman of the Committee, Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria, called Ms. Gordimer, "a worthy daughter of Africa". The award was a fitting tribute to a person who had for a long time contributed much through her novels, other writings and activities to the exposure of the inequities of apartheid and the mobilization of international public opinion against it.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/990
7 October 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council holds consultations to discuss Secretary-General's recommendations to extend mandate of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission for another six months, until 9 April 1992.

- Secretary-General welcomes "concrete and positive" response by Soviet President regarding United States disarmament initiatives of 27 September.

- United Nations needs additional cash receipts of $100 million to meet current operating requirements, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management tells Committee.

- Secretary-General says he remains ready to invite representatives of all segments of Afghan society to a meeting if acceptable to the Afghans.

- General Assembly hears address by King of Spain and Foreign Ministers for Barbados, Maldives, Guinea-Bissau and Mali, as well as Permanent Representative of Guyana. Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis and Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Botswana, Central African Republic and Benin, as well as Permanent Representative of Rwanda also address Assembly.

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The Security Council this morning held consultations to discuss a recommendation by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar that it renew the mandate of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) for another six months, until 9 April 1992, at a cost of $40 million.

The Secretary-General made the recommendation in a report, dated 2 October, in which he said that the demilitarized zone patrolled by the mission had been generally respected during the first six months of operation and that the area had been calm.

According to the report, the main source of friction during the period had been the movement of persons from Iraq to Kuwait across a border which

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For information media—not an official record

remained to be demarcated. Some of the crossings were by Bedouins, others by suppliers and customers of the illegal sheep market, and still others were by Iraqi civilians in search of weapons for trade.

The Security Council also deliberated today on the election of the new Secretary-General. In a statement to the press following consultations, Council President Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan of India, declared that the process of selection of the next Secretary-General was now officially under way.

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The Secretary-General has welcomed the Soviet response to United States President Bush's announcement of 27 September to cut down on nuclear weapons and forces.

In a statement made attributable to his Spokesman today, the Secretary-General said he was "highly appreciative of the concrete and positive response" by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev this weekend to the United States decision to take a number of unilateral measures with regard to nuclear weapons.

He expressed hope that the "two important and dramatic initiatives" would provide a new momentum to the efforts to achieve further significant reductions in their nuclear arsenals, contribute to greater stability, as well as lead to the adoption of additional steps towards the objective of a comprehensive test ban.

The Secretary-General further urged the other nuclear-weapons States to consider responding to President Gorbachev's invitation to join in the bilateral effort.

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The United Nations needs an additional $100 million in cash receipts to address its "precarious" financial situation, according to the Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, Richard Foran. He spoke at a meeting of the General Assembly's Fifth Committee concerned with Administrative and Budgetary issues, on Friday, 4 October.

Unpaid assessed contributions as of 30 September, totalled $723.5 million for the regular budget, and $518.2 million for peace-keeping operations, Mr. Foran told the Committee. He said the Organization had exhausted the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account and had then borrowed from peace-keeping funds to meet current operating requirements. He also informed delegates that contributions to peace-keeping operations were insufficient to meet those expenditure requirements in October.

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The Secretary-General said today through his Spokesman that he remained ready to invite representatives of all segments of Afhgan society to a gathering, if such a gathering was acceptable to the Afghans.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that as the Afghan problem would eventually have to be solved by the Afghans themselves, it was natural that at some point they would have to get together. He was keeping in close contact with the Governments concerned and with various segments of the Afghan people to see how his proposal of 21 May could be transformed into reality.

The Secretary-General had proposed that a comprehensive agreement, to be reached without outside interference, should include a transition period, a cease-fire, elections and ending of arms supplies.

The Secretary-General's announcement follows a meeting on Friday with a representative of the Afghan Mujahedeen. At a press conference following that meeting, the Afghan representative had said that the Mujahadeen supported the Secretary-General's efforts for a just political settlement to the conflict.

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Opening this morning's session of the General Assembly, King Don Juan Carlos I of Spain said the United Nations had been first the spur and then the powerful driving force in the decolonization process, yet colonialism had not disappeared from the world. He expressed hope for the elimination once and for all of "any vestiges of anachronistic situations incompatible with the current world order". He spoke of Gibraltar, expressing hope that the Hispano-British negotiating process now under way would result in a solution.

The Spanish King said that 1992 -- five centuries after the meeting between the old and the new worlds -- would be a year of special importance for Spain. In that year, his country would be fully integrated into the European Community at the same time that the Community completed the single market and took further steps towards political, economic and monetary union.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Barbados, Maurice A. King, noted that the person to be chosen as the United Nations new Secretary-General, among other things, must be a leader capable of preserving the independence and integrity of the post. In making the selection, he said, due regard must also be given to the principle of rotation.

In its region, Mr. King said, Barbados welcomed the normalization of relations between Belize and Guatemala and the historic move towards a negotiated solution to any outstanding differences. A relaxation in tensions between these two neighbours would contribute to strengthening relations between Central America and the Caribbean community. Barbados looked forward to the inauguration, next month in Honduras, of what was hoped to be a process of regular ministerial dialogue and cooperation between those two regions.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, Fathulla Jameel, welcomed the admission of the seven new United Nations Member countries, in

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particular the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands whom, he said, shared with the Maldives many geographic features and had similar political and economic conditions.

Speaking about the environment, Mr. Jameel noted it was an issue which could threaten the very existence of many of the nations present at the Assembly today. It had been a key concern of the Maldives, he said, given the threats posed due to global warming and possible sea level rise which could endanger the very survival of the island. The Maldives was looking forward to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil next year.

The Permanent Representative of Guyana, Cedric H. Grant, told the Assembly that it had taken his country "every moment" since its admission to the United Nations 25 years ago, to successfully assert its right to participate fully in regional organizations and arrangements within its hemisphere. In January, Guyana was admitted as a member to the Organization of American States (OAS).

Speaking about the problems of the small States, he said that despite the advantages offered by regional economic and trading groups, it was necessary to ensure that the small countries were not marginalized. It should also be noted, he said, that economic activity in most developing countries had slowed over the last year. With continued recession, particularly in Latin America and Africa, the decline had reached the point where the prospects of recovery were becoming increasingly remote.

The Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, Bubacar Touré, welcomed the establishment of the African Economic Community as a means to strengthen and develop commercial links between all nations of the continent. But the South-South dialogue was not enough, however successful, he said. He called on the developed countries to open their markets more widely to the exports from the developing countries and to increase their economic assistance to the poorest nations.

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, Tiebile Drame, emphasized that the overall economic situation in Africa was critical, despite the efforts made by its Governments to improve the conditions of their populations. The collapse of the prices of primary commodities, the huge burden of the external debt and the decline of economic assistance from the developed countries dimmed any prospect of recovery in Africa.

Mr. Drame also underlined the importance that his country, which had been suffering from drought and desertification, attached to the success of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Opening the debate this afternoon, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Kennedy A. Simmonds, said it was important to keep the development

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concerns of island developing nations on the international agenda, particularly at this time when the attention of the international community was taken by the monumental global events.

He spoke to the Assembly about the vulnerability of Caribbean States to natural disasters, global economic developments over which they had no control and an international economic order which determines and sets at a low level the prices of the things they sell, and escalates the prices of the things they buy. The Prime Minister said these developing States found themselves "consigned to a treadmill of poverty and underdevelopment".

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Mohamed Bolkiah, said that although the cold war was over, many nations around the world were still worried about their security, in the light of continuing violence, social unrest and grave civil strife in several regions.

He cited three specific global issues which he said must be addressed immediately: the risk that certain development programmes might lead to great environmental damage; the drug menace which presents a lasting threat to the welfare of the young people who were the productive sectors of all nations; and the ever-increasing ability to cause human and material destruction. In order to find satisfactory solutions, he said, these problems should be tackled by a joint effort of the international community.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Botswana, Gaositwe K.T. Chiepe, said the historic excesses of extreme nationalism and ethnocentrism were threatening the peaceful evolution of the new world order. However, he said, the promise of peace transcended the perils because a world free of the threat of nuclear holocaust and political tyranny was the best insurance for peace and tranquility among nations and peoples.

Calling the situation in South Africa "hopeful", he said the time had come for the South African people to proceed to the conference table to negotiate a new democratic constitution. He called on the United Nations to continue to insist on the cessation of violence in the townships and elsewhere, so that an atmosphere conducive to negotiations could be created in South Africa.

Laurent Gomina-Pampali, the Foreign Minister of Central African Republic, in his statement stressed that there was a new trend in the developed countries to link any economic and other new type of assistance to the establishment of democratic institutions in the developing countries. Such an approach was flawed, in his opinion, since it did not fully take into account the genuine economic needs of the peoples in the poor countries, whose development depended largely on the external assistance.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Benin, Theodore Holo, called on the industrialized nations and the international agencies to increase their economic and financial assistance to the poor countries from the South, in the same spirit of solidarity that they had shown towards the Eastern European countries. It is only with external help, he said, that the new and fragile democracies of the South would be able to strengthen their infrastructures and overcome gradually their critical economic situation.

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